When you receive the class syllabus...

• Go through the class syllabus ➔ think about what texts, themes, authors, etc. interest you most ➔ make connections

• Primary texts ➔ read pen in hand, highlight/underline and take notes while reading ➔ trace words, themes, minor characters, etc. that you find most significant ➔ take diligent class notes ➔ keep in mind historical context of the text and author biographies ➔ CLOSE READING

• Secondary texts ➔ read pen in hand, highlight/underline and take notes while reading ➔ pay attention to how the scholar analyzes the text ➔ these secondary texts can provide a good model for your own writing
Once you receive a prompt...

• The day you receive the prompt → brainstorm → look through your text and class notes

• Gather significant quotes

• Type up/write down your thoughts → don’t worry about organizing these, just write down what you’re thinking

• Make an outline → try your best to formulate a working thesis and argument → think about the best way to order and structure body paragraphs

• Talk to your professor and/or to the Writing Center for more help
Once you’ve brainstormed and outlined...

• Start drafting your essay

• Think about what strategy works best for you
  • Some people like writing the introduction first
  • Some like writing the body paragraphs first
  • Some may even like writing a conclusion first!

• Talk to your professor and/or to the Writing Center for more help

• I would not recommend writing the whole essay in one sitting → break it up and write it piece by piece instead (one paragraph at a time perhaps) → TAKE BREAKS (more on this later)
Once you’ve drafted your entire essay...

- Carefully revise it → I usually recommend printing your paper out and going through with a colored pen in hand
- Make sure your thesis is clear, concise, and persuasive → your body paragraphs must be in a logical order, structured properly, and they must build upon and strengthen your argument
- Your conclusion should not simply restate your thesis → your conclusion is the time for moving beyond your thesis → questions, speculation, etc.
- YOUR IDEAS MUST BE CENTRAL TO YOUR PAPER → the ideas of other scholars must support your argument, but the argument is yours
- Make sure you properly integrate, analyze, and cite primary and secondary sources
- Chat with your professor and/or the Writing Center for more assistance
On the day your paper is due...

• I usually recommend that you do not hand in your paper \textit{too} early, but do not obsess over it (24-48 hours before the due date is a good time window if you’d like to hand your paper in early)

• Try to read through your essay one more time \rightarrow keep an eye out for any lingering grammatical, citational, or formatting issues

• Be confident! You’ve been working hard and doing your best!

• Craft a respectful email to your professor and make sure to attach your paper before you send

\text{AND/OR}

Print out your paper and staple it together
Stress Management
Throughout the writing process...

• TAKE BREAKS
  • Do work for other classes
  • Read a favorite book
  • Listen to a podcast or to music
  • Watch a movie/tv
  • Whatever makes you feel comfortable and more relaxed!
  • Taking breaks is essential to best formulate ideas and to properly revise/draft your paper → resting your brain is significant!
  • Try not to work on your paper for more than one hour at a time (preferably around 30-45 minutes)
  • Try to schedule breaks that are at least 15 minutes long
  • Schedule your time and find out the length of writing and the length of the break time that work best for you
Stress Management
Throughout the writing process...

• Seek help
  • Your professor
  • Your peers (check with your professor)
  • The Writing Center
  • Family members
  • Someone to help you brainstorm
  • Someone to read through an outline/draft
  • Grammar Girl
  • Your grammar handbook (e.g., *The Bedford Handbook*, *They Say/I Say*, etc.)
  • Writing Center Blog and Resources (accessible on the Writing Center homepage)
    • “Writing Resources” are located under “Academic Resources” on the left-hand side
    • Blog posts are located directly on the homepage (Scroll down to “Fordham Writing Center Writing Tips”)
Breakout Rooms and Discussion

• Now we will move into breakout rooms for 10 minutes
• Let us know if you have any questions whatsoever about the three presentations!
  • What writing advice did you find most helpful and why?
  • What do you find most difficult about writing for college classes and why?
  • What ideas do you have about what the Writing Center could discuss in future workshops?
• THANK YOU FOR LISTENING! I hope this advice helps you throughout the writing process and as you work on final papers for this semester.