

Five Ways Online Students Can Improve Their Writing Skills

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College writing is different than casual writing. To learn how to write for college really is like learning a whole new language. It takes a lot of practice – sometimes about 4 or 5 years – to really get the hang of academic writing. All those Discussion Board posts and paper drafts are designed to give you practice towards proficiency. In the meantime, here are five ways you can improve your writing:

1. College writing probably won't fit in the display screen of a cell phone. Your ideas need explanation, illustration, and other forms of more complex development.
2. Online courses move at a crazy-fast pace. Get into a routine of writing regularly in order to conquer any procrastination habits early on, especially if you dislike writing.
3. Get an assessment of your writing by asking instructors for specific feedback; identify strengths as well as areas for improvement.
4. Identify what resources are available to improve your skills at Ashford and beyond. For example, the Ashford Writing Center website is vast. It takes some time to explore all the features. Some useful and popular tools include:
 - [Thesis Generator](#)
 - [Writing a Good Paragraph](#)
 - [Make an Outline](#)
 - [APA Everything](#)
5. Start a sample paper portfolio. Ask professors for good samples of college and professional writing. The Ashford Writing Center also provides [some samples here](#).

And finally, don't underestimate the energy and effort required to get the most out of your online education. What writing advice would you share?

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