

# Writing an Academic Essay in Nine Steps

**1**

## Choose Your Topic

Select the general topic of your research paper.  
PRO TIP: Choose a topic that interests you.

**2**

## Preliminary Research

Start researching your topic.  
Look for what kinds of sources are available and what research has been done before.

**3**

## Research Question

Come up with a research question that you would like to explore, based on the sources that are available to you.

**4**

## Research

Do further research, focusing on sources relating specifically to your research question.  
PRO TIP: Keeping detailed notes that include citation information will make the writing process easier.