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Start Writing (TOK Essay 3.2)

Post 8/15



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I know a lot you have already started writing your essay. But if you haven't yet, this is the time. Open a Word document and get some words down. Better yet, you can use the outline here (in the Downloads). **In this section I'm going to show you exactly how I would begin to get my ideas down on paper.** Some of you will get more out of this than others I expect. But if you'd like to see exactly how I begin, here it is.

(You might notice that I talk about 3 different development sections. These days we are recommending you only have two sections though.)

Hopefully that video was helpful. Obviously that's just a very rough first-go at a draft. First drafts help us to see where we need to do more research. As they say, **good writing is re-writing. So much of this essay challenge is about being willing to go over your work again and again. I wanted you to see that even I don't know what I'm doing when I start a draft.** :)

"More than a half, maybe as much as two-thirds of my life as a writer is rewriting. I wouldn't say I have a talent that's special. It strikes me that I have an unusual kind of stamina." - John Irving

My essay structure

[Here is a link to my full method structure outline](#) article, on my blog. Some of you will have read that already, but if not, it works pretty well for a first draft.

I'll talk you through all the extras in the coming lessons.

Say something interesting...

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2 Comments

Nadja Viktoria Nitz

Dear Mr. Woods,

If I am doing the prescribed title number 3. Shared knowledge often changes over time. Does this fact undermine our confidence in current shared knowledge? Would a good KQ be: To what extent are changes in shared knowledge an indication of progress of a discipline? I finished my essay using this KQ but I fear it didn't answer the prescribed title because the KQ was too off topic? I would be extremely grateful for your help in this.

on Sep 14, 2019 [Reply](#)



Tim Woods

Hi there. This might be a little tricky to fully address in this format, but let's have a go. The main thing to think about here is that you definitely want to be answering the title question (more than the KQ in your answer). So, I think your KQ could be fine, but again it's much more about whether you've been addressing/answering the PT question in your essay. That's what the marker is going to be thinking about as they read your work. So perhaps you might want to stick with your current KQ, but make some adjustments to have you've worded things and what evidence you've used, to make sure you're addressing the prescribed title topic the whole time. Does that make sense?

on Sep 15, 2019 [Reply](#)

“When something can be read
without effort, great effort has gone
into its writing.”

~Enrique Jardiel Poncela

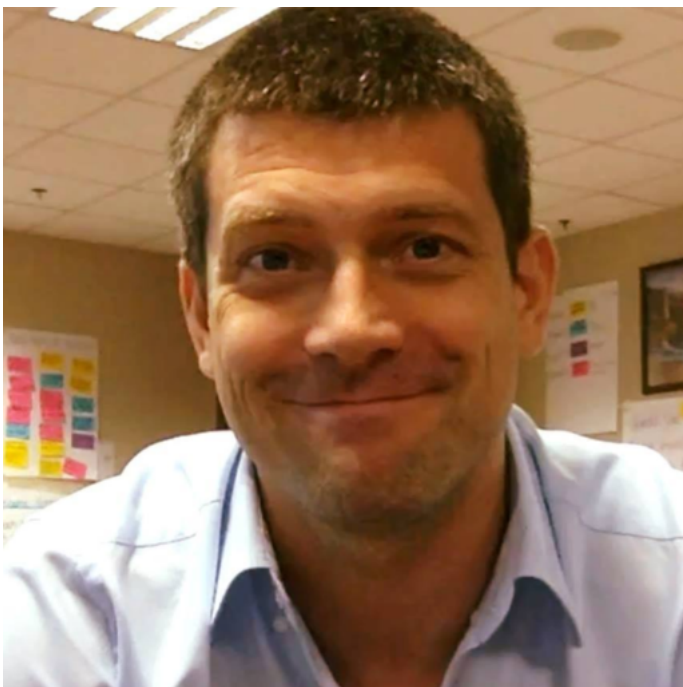
Coming Up

On Writing Well (TOK Essay 3.3)

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Tim Woods

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