

AGILE FIRST ★ DRAFT

PLOT / FREE WRITE

Write out the quick version of your story. Include all the plot/events without descriptive details.

- Why did you choose this topic?
- What are the specific events do you want to cover?
- Do you have a thesis or theme?
- What do you hope readers learn or understand when you're done?

Simply say what you need and want to say without trying to make it "right" or "perfect."



ANALYZE

- Does the narrative make sense or are there plot holes?
- Do you cover all the points you wanted to include?
- Is each event balanced? Do you need to devote more or less time to certain plot points?

OUTLINE

Structure your ideas.

- How will you sequence your information?
- What is the logical flow of your narrative?
- Where do your citations fit in?

Remember this is a story. You can use literary techniques like flashbacks or interspersed timelines.



ADD SETTING / RESEARCH

Immerse the reader in this specific time and place.

- What was the socio-economic status like?
- What was the culture at the time?
- What was the wider influence of the world on your characters?



DEVELOP CHARACTERS / RESEARCH

- Do you have letters or journals?
- What might they have been thinking of feeling in key moments?
- What might their motivations have been for choices like moving or marrying?



PROSE

You may not be a wordsmith, but saving this step for last gives you the freedom in earlier steps to not worry about how you write and simply draft without pressure or judgement.

- Look for the use of pronouns.
- Use active voice. Remove:
 - was
 - is
 - has
 - -ing versions of verbs (was running becomes ran).

