

As you work on your draft, [look at the sample essay](#), and read through the parts of the sample as you develop those sections of yours.

ENGL 1301

Prewriting 3: Final Drafting Steps

Use these steps to work on smoothing out a draft for peer review.

Transition Strategy

Create transitions for each major section of your essay. Look at the sample and think about the way the closing sentences in each paragraph move us into the next part.

1. Transition into the first body paragraph from the introduction should be your thesis. You're setting your readers up for all they're about to read.
2. Transition between body paragraphs should bring together the evidence you've provided and provide a good closure to that section, and when appropriate, lead into the next part.
3. Transition into counterargument paragraph(s)—[here's a list of words and phrases that can help you do that](#).
4. Transition into conclusion.

Introduction and Conclusion Development

Consider these things as you develop and review your introduction and conclusion.

1. Introduction Strategy
 - How will you hook the reader?
 - What context is necessary to understand the controversy?
 - How will you build up to your thesis? (See this
2. Conclusion Strategy:
 - How will you restate your thesis without simply repeating it?
 - What broader implications does your argument have?
 - What call to action or final thought will you leave readers with?

Final Checklist for Drafting

Review these elements before writing your full draft:

1. Thesis Statement:
 - Is it clearly argumentative?
 - Does it contain specific, debatable claims?
 - Does it use precise, [evaluative language](#)?
2. Evidence and Support:
 - Have you selected the strongest evidence from each source?
 - Is your evidence relevant to your specific claims?
 - Do you have a balance of different types of evidence?

3. Organization and Structure:

- Does each paragraph have a clear purpose that advances your argument?
- Have you created logical transitions between sections?
- Does your counterargument paragraph or paragraphs strengthen rather than weaken your position?
- Check out this [Source Integration Techniques](#) tipsheet with examples.

4. APA Formatting:

- Is your title page correctly formatted?
- Are all in-text citations in proper APA style?
- Is your References page properly formatted?
- Have you used a standard 12-point font throughout?

5. Academic Style:

- Have you maintained an academic tone?
- Have you used precise, [evaluative language](#) but avoided over-writing?
- Have you varied your sentence structure?
- Have you eliminated unnecessary wordiness?

Remember that strong argumentative writing:

- Takes a clear position.
- Supports claims with relevant evidence.
- Acknowledges and addresses opposing viewpoints.
- Uses precise, [evaluative language](#).
- Creates a cohesive narrative, not just a list of points.
- Connects ideas logically with thoughtful transitions.
- Maintains an academic tone while being persuasive.

You've trained hard all semester, young ninja; now it's time to show off!

Notes on using AI. Don't be afraid to ask it for feedback on your draft. Use the [grading rubric](#) here to review your work. Download it and then upload it to the AI and then ask it to provide you feedback using it. Ask it to give you suggestions for how to develop any place that doesn't meet your goal.

Make sure to tell it "Don't rewrite it for me, just provide suggestions." If you don't understand the suggestions, ask it to explain them with examples that are not from your paper. Don't be afraid to ask it to simplify those explanations if you need to. Or ask it to give you specific steps to help you improve a part of section.

Or, even easier than negotiating with a computer for hours, go to the [writing center](#) and talk to a person about those ideas.

I suggest claude.ai, but there are tons. Just don't hand me an AI written or AI sounding paper. That will not pass. Do you! I really like hearing what **you** have to say!