

# How to Write an F Paper

Fresh Advice for Students of Freshman English at Sacramento State University from Joseph C. Patterson

Revised for Harrellland 8<sup>th</sup> grade students by Mrs. Harrell

Writing an “F” paper is not an easy task, but one can learn to do it by grasping these principles below. If practiced diligently, they should lead any student to that prize in his writing.

## Obscure the Ideas

1. Select a topic that is big enough to let you wander around the main idea without ever being forced to state it precisely. If an assigned topic has been limited for you, take a detour that will allow you to amble away from it for a while.
2. Pad! Pad! Do not develop your ideas. Simply restate them in safe, spongy generalizations to avoid the need to find evidence to support what you say. Always point out repetition with the phrase, “As previously stated...” Better yet, repeat word-for-word at least one or two of your statements.
3. Disorganize your discussion. For example, if you are using the chronological order to present your material, keep the reader alert by making a jump from the past to the present only to spring back into the past before leaping into the future preceding a return hop into the present just before the finish of the point about the past. Devise comparable stratagems to use with such other principles for organizing a discussion as location, compare/contrast, cause-effect, and climax.
4. Begin a new paragraph every sentence or two.

By generous use of white space, make the reader aware that he is looking at a page blank of sustained thought.

Like this.

## Mangle the Sentences

5. Fill all the areas of your sentences with deadwood. Incidentally, “due to the fact that” and “there are” will deaden almost any sentence, and it is particularly flat when displayed prominently at the beginning of a sentence.
6. Using fragments and run-on or comma-spliced sentences. Do not use a main subject and a main verb, for the reader will get the complete thought too easily. Just toss her part of the idea at a time. To gain sentence variety, throw in an occasional run-on sentence thus the reader will have to read slowly and carefully to get the idea.
7. You, in the introduction, body, and conclusion of your paper, to show that you can contrive ornate, graceful sentences, should use involution. Frequent separation of subjects from verbs by insertion of involved phrases and clauses will prove that you know what can be done to a sentence.

## Slovenize the Diction

8. Use vague words in place of precise ones. From the start, establish vagueness of tone by saying, "The thing is..." instead of, "The issue is..." Make the reader be imaginative throughout his reading of your paper.
9. Employ lengthy Latinate locutions wherever possible. Shun the simplicity of style that comes from apt use of short, old, familiar words, especially those of Anglo-Saxon origin. Show that you can get the maximum (L) not merely the most (AS) from every word choice you make.
10. Inject humor into your writing by using the wrong word occasionally. Write "their" when you mean "they're" or "to" when you mean "too." Every reader likes a laugh.
11. Find a "tried and true" phrase to use to clinch a point. It will have a comfortingly folksy sound for the reader. Best of all, since you want to end in a conversational and friendly way, sprinkle your conclusion with slang and clichés. "Put a little frosting on the cake, so to speak, dude."

**Well, to ensconce this whole thing in a nutshell, you, above all, an erudite discourse on nothing in the field of your topic should pen. Thereby gaining the reader's credence in what you say and stuff.**