

The 4 P's of Problem Solving Papers

1. Define the Problem

- Look over previous papers to use as feedback to improve.
- Audience?
- Goal of the Assignment? Goal of your Writing?
- Thesis- Title.
- Structure- make a map or skeleton outline.
- Readings- Research.
- How do you feel about the Paper?

2. Generate the Possibilities

- Brainstorm on note cards - remember not to judge!
- Talk about it- tape it (don't edit your ideas).
- Journal about the paper, draw it out on paper, doodle ideas.
- Free write ideas and cut and paste.
- What story do you want to tell or points do you want to make?
- Supporting Evidence- ideas, points, examples, "quotes"

3. Create a Plan

- Begin to plan at least 1-2 weeks before due date!
- Build a working outline or mindmap.
- Talk to instructor.
- Fill in working outline with examples and quotes.
- Break the paper and what you need to do into parts!
- Put into your time management book- one hour slots.
- Rewards?

4. Perform your Plan

- Do the tasks as planned over 1-2 weeks!
- Checklist of parts of tasks or pieces of the paper.
- Rewards?
- Keep your sights on Personal Improvement not grades.
- Special place to write or inspire yourself?
- Edit and transitions.
- When you get it back- use the information as FEEDBACK!

Developed by Dr. John Body, 1995 from D. Ellis, Becoming a Master Student