What's included in a Rough Draft?

Goal: Get the ideas down; don't worry about completeness or grammar.

1. A Working Title

Don't spend an hour trying to be clever. Use a "placeholder" title that describes exactly what you are writing about.

- *Example: "The Impact of Microplastics on Pacific Salmon Populations"*

2. An Introduction with Project Statement

Your intro doesn't need to be beautiful, but it needs to be functional.

- **A hook is a good way to start:** Start with a fact, quote, or question. It can be a bit "plain" for now.
- **A project statement:** This is the most important sentence. It must clearly state your main argument or purpose. If this changes as you write (which is normal!), go back and update this.

3. Body Paragraphs

In a given paragraph, if you're not sure what to include, here is a guideline:

- **A Topic Sentence:** What is this specific paragraph trying to prove?
- **The "Evidence":** Quotes, statistics, or facts. In a rough draft, it's okay to use placeholders like: *[Insert data from 2024 WHO report here]*.
- **Your Analysis (if applicable):** Explain *why* the evidence matters. This is where your voice comes in.

4. Transitions

A rough draft can help you organize your thoughts logically. You may need some transitions between paragraphs- You can work more on this later; for the rough draft, you might just make a note about them.

5. Conclusion

You may not know what your conclusion is yet, but you probably have a good idea. Make a note about what things you may need to get to a conclusion, if you don't have one yet.

6. The "Messy" Bibliography

As you write, keep a list of every book, website, or article you used. You don't need to worry about perfect hanging indents or italics yet—just make sure you have the links and titles so you don't lose them.

Keep in mind: This is a work in progress- I just want to see what your thought process is.