When Do You Start Writing?

After I Finish Research
18.75%

As I Research
81.25%

* Percentages based on survey respondents' answers
Where & How Do You Write? Early in the morning with lots of coffee.

What is your favorite writing tool? Music & good scenery

What is your best writing tip? Sit down and get it done. If you have writer's block, just start writing anything and the words will come. There will always be that point where you must stop the research and write.

Troy Elkins

Kansas State University
Twitter: @AggiesRevenge

D. Brooks

Friends of Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site
Twitter: @FriendsSXSHS
Website: friendsofschohariecrossing.blogspot.com

Where & How Do You Write? At work, early in the day. Research enough to get started and then begin writing.

What is your favorite writing tool? Scraps of paper & a pencil

What is your best writing tip? Include your own style based on your personality. Let your words reflect your mind.
Mylynka Kilgore Cardona
Texas General Land Office
Map Curator

Where & How Do You Write? Usually in a coffee shop; Edit at home.

What is your favorite writing tool? Pen & Paper

What is your best writing tip? Make time to write & write a little everyday.

Micheal Brewster

Where & How Do You Write? Research, read, write, repeat.

What is your favorite writing tool? Laptop & text editor

What is your best writing tip? Writing is thinking. Just write. All writing can be fixed, spruced, shaped, and cut.

Twitter: @brewcuse
Website: medium.com/brewcuse

Teresa Sabol Spezio
Pitzer College

Where & How Do You Write? In the mornings with my earbuds & folk music.

What is your favorite writing tool? My music

What is your best writing tip? Sit down and write.
Where & How Do You Write? Early in the morning in my study surrounded by my books & notes.

What is your favorite writing tool? Computer

What is your best writing tip? Love your topic just enough to approach it critically.

Theresa Kaminski

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Twitter: @KaminskiTheresa
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David L. McMillan

Ph.D. Candidate, Drew University
Adjunct Instructor, Hudson County Community College

Where & How Do You Write? In the library during the middle of the day with music.

What is your favorite writing tool? Music, Debussy preferred

What is your best writing tip? Keep a notepad on hand because you will never know when you will need it.
**Where & How Do You Write?** I write consistently in notes, e-mails, letters, and comments. I pull ideas to explore from notes in spurts.

**What is your favorite writing tool?** Laptop

**What is your best writing tip?** Always stop writing when you know EXACTLY what you want to say next. When you pick it up again you will be off and running.

Heather Cox Richardson

Boston College
Twitter: @HC_Richardson

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**Megan Kate Nelson**

Writer
Twitter: @megankatenelson
Website: historista.com

**Where & How Do You Write?** At home in my kitchen with notes & books at the ready. Research mostly done.

**What is your favorite writing tool?** Laptop

**What is your best writing tip?** Find the way you write best & go with it, but don't be afraid to change things up later.
Sara Georgini

Where & How Do You Write? Whenever & wherever I can. Edit in the mornings; write in the evenings.

What is your favorite writing tool? Pencil

What is your best writing tip? Read everything. Join a writing group to learn how others work.

Adams Papers
Twitter: @sarageorgini

Where & How Do You Write? In my basement office.

What is your favorite writing tool? No. 2 pencil

What is your best writing tip? Enjoy writing, it's the best part of the job.

Michael Leroy Oberg
SUNY Geneseo
Twitter: @roanoac1585

Michelle Moravec

Where & How Do You Write? At home, usually online.

What is your favorite writing tool? Laptop

What is your best writing tip? Write a little everyday.

Twitter: @professormoravec
Website: michellemoravec.com
Andy Denning  
University of Kansas

Where & How Do You Write? In the mornings at home on my couch with my laptop. My process: 1. I research and read (usually for far too long) 2. Outline my chapters in a detailed outline 3. Begin to write and reconfigure the order of my detailed outline as needed 4. Write as much as I can in 3-4 hour blocks.

What is your favorite writing tool? Taking notes about my notes and then notes about my notes on my notes. This filtering process is crucial for me.

What is your best writing tip? Establish a routine, one that is suited to your working style and rhythms. Figure out where you work best and how you work best. There is no one-size fits all approach to writing.
Where & How Do You Write? 3 hours in the afternoon and after class and dinner. I write as much as I can on weekends.

What is your favorite writing tool? Microsoft Notepad

What is your best writing tip? Journaling in either one sentence or with bullet points. It helps me keep track of what I have done and gives me a sense of accomplishment.

Jennifer Gagliardi

US Citizenship Podcast
Twitter: @uscitizenpodcast
Website: uscitizenpo.com

Jennifer Black

Where & How Do You Write? Notes in Zotero followed by "chunks" in MS Word. I outline until I can't outline anymore and then outline again before writing another "chunk." Eventually my chunks fill the outline and then I add transitions.

What is your favorite writing tool? MS Word

What is your best writing tip? Write early on during your research and write often.
Where & How Do You Write? In the morning, at home with coffee. I have a 3-step process once the bulk of my research is done. 1. I gather all my evidence and outline. 2. I pull together a draft based on the outline for my evidence. 3. I revise for what seems like forever. To put together a publishable article or book chapter, I do all of the above over and over again. I live by the mantra: "Writing is revising."

What is your favorite writing tool? Thesaurus

What is your best writing tip? Schedule your writing time in your calendar.
Where & How Do You Write? Read in the morning, write in the afternoon. I take notes about what I read in the margins of the books. When I write, I look at those notes & the passages I marked to decide if they should make my draft. I write in MS Word and use heading styles to denote what my notes are about. This allows me to cut and paste these notes into my drafts.

What is your favorite writing tool? Zotero

What is your best writing tip? Don't wait until you finish your research to write. Write and develop ideas as much as you can while researching. Writing in smaller chunks is easier than writing in big chunks and it will help you maintain a steady and consistent pace. Once you finish a draft, let it and your mind breathe for a few days.
HELPFUL LINKS

Podcast: benfranklinsworld.com

Doing History Series: benfranklinsworld.com/doinghistory