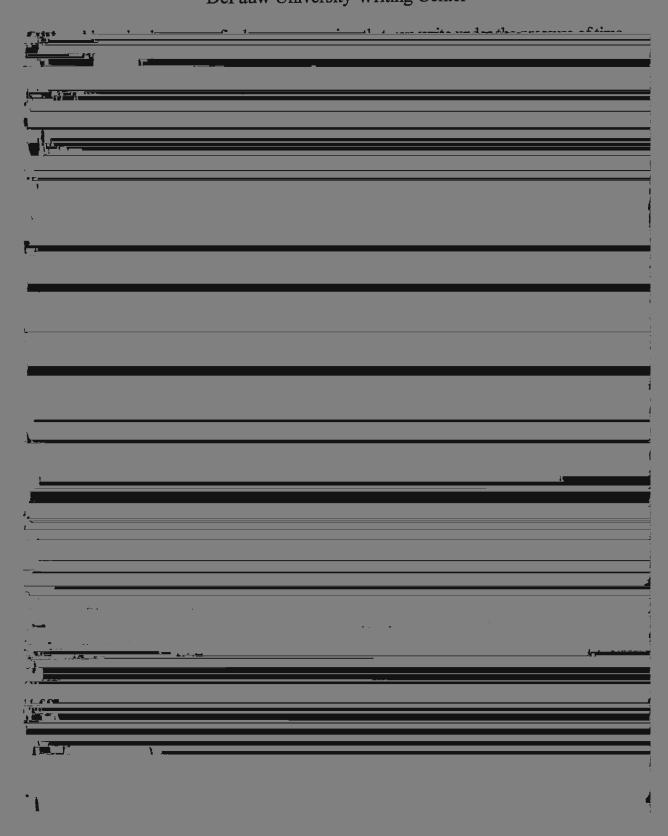
DePauw University Writing Center



Plan your essay(s) carefully before you begin to write. Develop a thesis that will guide you through your response and organize your ideas. Your thesis statement should answer all parts of the question. Some planning methods include:

- jotting down questions you might answer
- listing points you will cover, writing an outline
- using a graphic organizer or clustering technique

As you plan, make sure that you cover all aspects of the essay question, and that you support generalizations with specific references (evidence/details/examples/authority opinion).

Begin writing with a clear thesis statement. Timed writings leave little room for anecdotal or

You wouldn't take a trip without a map, so don't write without a plan. The results too often produce a wandering, unfocused, even self-contradictory essay.

lengthy openings that point the way to the thesis. As you write, refer to your thesis and notes to be sure that you cover all of your points. Consider, too, underlining or enumerating key points (1 2 2 or First Coard Third) to ambasine ideas for an interest will 11