

From Notes to Essay

9th Grade

The bridge between having read everything and having written nothing.

The blank page is usually a sorting problem, not a writing problem.

1 GROUP THE NOTES

1

Sort every note into piles by idea, not by source.

2 NAME EACH PILE

2

One sentence per pile. These become topic sentences.

3 ORDER THE PILES

3

Strongest argument first or last, never buried in the middle.

4 DRAFT FROM THE TOPIC SENTENCES

4

Write each paragraph to prove its own sentence.

5 WRITE THE INTRODUCTION LAST

5

It is far easier once you know what you actually argued.

If a note fits no pile, it probably does not belong in this essay. Cutting it is progress.