Essay planning: what are your methods? – Transcript

How do you go about planning for an essay?

Holly: Definitely more time researching for me.

Emily: And me. And planning. Thinking about it, writing is probably one of the smaller parts of doing an essay – the actual writing up of it. There's a lot of research, isn't there?

Holly: Yeah. For my major project that I did this year I researched all throughout the summer, so that was maybe four months of research, and then I wrote it over Christmas break, so two weeks.

Ugena: I normally do all the research before I start writing. So when I get my ideas, I try to find sources that actually support my ideas before I actually type it out. That helps you brainstorm a lot more.

Niya: I'd probably say a similar thing. I spend a lot more time on the planning stage before I actually start writing. When it does come to the writing, it's a lot easier and quite fluid when you've got a solid plan to put sentences together.

Holly: I have calendars – so I know I'm dedicating this day to this module, this day to this essay. If something comes into my head and it's amazing, I'll write it down on the wrong day, but I prioritise time to different actions.

Megan: I probably spend the most time editing my assignments. Obviously, doing a publishing degree, they do pick up the small details, and frankly it'd just be embarrassing if you made quite a simple mistake. So I really go through it and make sure that I've got everything right – all my facts are correct, correct referencing, that kind of thing. You will get marked down if your bibliography and references aren't correct.

Natasha: Prioritise. You've got to think about each deadline, when it's due, and then work back from the due date. I would personally say, dedicate your day. Don't try and go to History and then do a bit of French – if you're interdisciplinary, make sure you set a day for each, otherwise you may get confused.

Ugena: When you have to focus, just really go for it. Don't let your mind wander. That's what I tend to do a lot of the time, my mind tends to go all over the place, and that's useless. So just focus on that one assignment first before you move on.