Tips on Writing a Paper in German

1. Just like writing in English one must have an outline written out. Also, whatever your prewriting process, please do it in German as much as you can. **(Never write out your paper in English and then translate it later – this only leads to disaster.)**

2. Write out your rough draft keeping in mind to use active voice just like in English. During this time it would be wise to look up all words you don't know. Make sure all of your nouns have some form of article preceding the noun. Sometimes in German you may have to be creative and create your own compound words depending on your topic.

3. Once you have your rough draft and ideas down, go through the piece and make sure all the genders are correct and all of the verbs agree with the subjects.

4. Go through your draft once again and this time pay attention to the prepositions and case of your nouns. In German you have the two-way prepositions that are in accusative for direct objects and dative for indirect. If there are any prepositions you are in doubt about it is best to just look them up because it could be the difference between an A and a B.

5. Finally, go through the piece again to check spelling and make sure everything sounds correct. During this step assure all nouns are capitalized and beware of simple inverted vowels or typos. Some examples below are prime examples of such mistakes.

Examples of spelling mistakes:

Biene= Bee	Kopf= head	nackt= naked
Beine= Leg	Kampf= struggle	Nacht= night
Scheissen= to defecate	bezahlen= to pay	kaufen= to buy
Schiessen= to shoot	bestehen= to exist	kauen= to chew like an animal

Re-writes:

Part of the German writing process is taken care of in the coursework as a whole. You have the chance to rewrite your paper as many times as you may see fit for upper level courses. If you have lost the correction guide there should be one on file in the Writing Studio as well as feel free to ask Herr Connell for a new copy.

Last bit of advice: When in doubt look it up.

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