



Master French Writing: Tips for Brilliant Essays

KS4 FRENCH

WRITING SKILLS

Ages 13-16 ⌚ 3 min read

Plan Before You Write

The secret to good French writing starts before you even pick up a pen. Spend a few minutes thinking about what you want to say. Write down your main ideas in **bullet points** — this is called a **plan**. In French, you might write about a favourite holiday, a family member, or your opinion on a topic. Planning helps you stay organised and remember everything you want to include.

Think of it like building with Lego — you plan where each brick goes before you start stacking them.

Use Simple, Correct Sentences

When you write in French, don't try to use super complicated words or sentence structures. It's much better to write **clear, simple sentences** that are **correct** than to use fancy language full of mistakes. Use verbs you know well and check the **tense** (past, present, or future) matches your meaning. Remember that in French, adjectives often come after nouns — unlike in English.

Write short paragraphs with **topic sentences** at the start. Each paragraph should focus on one main idea. This makes your writing easier to follow and shows the reader you understand your subject.

Think of it like explaining a recipe — you wouldn't jump around confusing your reader. You'd go step-by-step in order.

Check Your Grammar and Spelling

Always **proofread** (read through carefully) your work when you've finished. Look for common mistakes like incorrect **verb conjugations**, missing **accents** (like é, è, ê), and **gender agreement** (making sure adjectives match whether nouns are masculine or feminine). Keep a list of mistakes you often make — everyone has patterns they repeat.

Expand Your Vocabulary

Learn **useful phrases** and **linking words** (called **connectives**) in French: **d'abord** (first), **ensuite** (then), **en conclusion** (in conclusion), **cependant** (however). These words help your writing flow smoothly and show you can handle more complex ideas.

Think of connectives like the roads connecting houses in a village — they help people move from one place to another easily.

Practice Regularly

The best way to improve is to **write regularly**. Set yourself small challenges: write a short paragraph every week about something you did, describe a picture in French, or write replies to imaginary emails. The more you practise, the more natural and confident your French writing becomes.