

## Titles

*Titles help you focus and develop your draft, introduce your readers to your topic, and provide another reason to read your work.*

1. Copy out of your draft a sentence that could serve as a title.
2. Write a sentence that's not in your draft to use as a title.
3. Write a title that is a question beginning with *What*, *Who*, *When* or *Where*.
4. Write a title that is a question beginning with *How* or *Why*.
5. Write a title that is a question beginning with *Is/Are*, *Do/Does*, or *Will*.
6. Pick out of the essay some concrete image – something the reader can hear, see, taste, smell, or feel – to use as a title.
7. Pick another concrete image out of the essay. Look for an image that is a bit unusual or surprising.
8. Write a title that begins with an –ing verb (like “Creating a Good Title”)
9. Write a title beginning with *On* (like “On the Title of Essays”).
10. Write a title that is a lie about the essay. (You probably won't use this one, but it might stimulate your thinking.)
11. Write a one-word title – the most obvious one possible.
12. Write a less obvious one-word title.
13. Write a two-word title.
14. Write a three-word title.
15. Write a four-word title.
16. Write a five-word title.
17. Think of a familiar saying, or the title of a book, song, or movie that might fit your essay.
18. Take the above title and twist it by changing a word or creating a pun on it.
19. Do the same with another saying or title of a book, song, or movie.
20. Find two titles you've written so far that you might use together in a double title. Join them together with a colon.

*from Richard Leahy's "Twenty Titles for the Writer"*

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