

Student Guidelines: How to Write an Essay, 8/25/19

- What the essay will look like: 5 paragraphs:
 1. Introduction: attn. grabber, general to specific, end with a thesis statement.
 2. 1st paragraph of the main body of the essay
 3. 2nd paragraph of the main body of the essay
 4. 3rd paragraph of the main body of the essay
 5. Conclusion: Restate thesis, summary sentences, closer and clincher
- How to write the essay:
 - Write thesis statement. Usually just the assignment itself, or a rewording of it if assignment is given as a question.
 - For each inner ("main body") paragraph:
 - Write down the topics/questions you want to address.
 - Find 2 quotes (SP only 1).
 - For each quote:
 - Write topic (introductory) sentence.
 - Explain setting of quote
 - Insert quote
 - Explain how quote supports your point (but do not simply restate quote in your own words. Explain how it supports your point).
 - Write transition sentence.
 - Write introductory paragraph. Contains problem to solve. Thesis statement is at end and functions as transition statement.
 - Write conclusion.
 - Restate introduction.
 - Give solution to problem raised in intro.
 - Make paragraphs a minimum of 8 lines. If student will give context of quote, who said it, and to whom, this should not be difficult.
 - Remember: Intro paragraph needs to state the problem to analyze, the middle paragraphs give the facts, and the last paragraph reaches a conclusion (resolves) the problem stated in the intro.