

# Rutgers Learning Centers

At Camden Campus

## WRITING: RESEARCH PAPERS KEY ELEMENTS

### ◆ Theme — Central or dominant idea

Has a subject and a predicate  
Inquiry that leads to thesis statement  
Generates and addresses audience interest

### ◆ Beginning — Introduction of theme leading to Thesis

Make your theme specific and limit the points of discussion  
State the discussion, argument or proof that will be undertaken

### ◆ Middle — Paragraphs providing Details

- |               |                                |   |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| ◆ Unity       | Central Idea &<br>Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>. State subject /predicate of the paragraph</li><li>. Focus your view</li><li>. Progress through your ideas logically</li><li>. Clearly link all events and relationships</li></ul>               |
| ◆ Development | Supporting details             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>. Specify examples and elaborate on them</li><li>. Develop your paragraphs evenly</li><li>. Give equal evaluation and weight to all points</li></ul>  |
| ◆ Coherence   | Sentences                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>. Relate sentence to your thesis and main idea</li><li>. Link one sentence to the next by paragraph idea</li></ul>  |
|               | Quotations                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>. Introduce quotes by your own prose</li><li>. Relate quotes to central idea</li><li>. Exemplify <u>your</u> point by quotes</li><li>. Elaborate or explain quotes by <u>your</u> prose</li></ul> |
|               | Repetition                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>. Use only a word or phrase to make parallel link</li><li>. Avoid repeating the same statement</li><li>. Make sure synonyms convey intended meaning</li></ul>                                     |
| ◆ Completion  | Sufficiency                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>. Each sentence presents additional information</li><li>. Each sentence provides transition to next point</li><li>. Each sentence relates to and clarifies central idea</li></ul>                 |

### ◆ End — Summary and Conclusion

Summarizes and briefly evaluates your major points  
Offers a succinct statement for new directions  
Creates a sense of overall completeness  
Does not introduce new material — When you're done, you're done!

For more information, visit or call your nearest Rutgers Learning Center, or visit our website:<http://rlc.rutgers.edu>

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