WRITING: FIVE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY

Introduction: Establishes the topic of the paper and moves from broad to specific. Opening paragraph sets the limits of discussion and is generally the place where the thesis statement is placed. Some professors require that thesis be the final sentence of the opening paragraph.

Thesis: Specifically states what you will prove, analyze or maintain in the paper. Usually will include a broad reference to the topics used to support or defend your thesis.

**Topic Sentence #1** -- first point you use to defend your thesis. Does the topic sentence support thesis? If it doesn’t clearly defend your argument, the sentence needs to be rewritten.

REMEMBER: TO AVOID PLAGIARISM, STATE SOURCE FOR IDEAS, QUOTATIONS, AND PARAPHRASING.

**Topic Sentence #2** -- Second defense point. Does it support your thesis?

**Supporting Details** (usually three to five sentences) -- check against topic sentence; is the support relevant? If not, the details need to be reworded or reselected to support topic.

**Topic Sentence #3** -- Third defense point. Does it support your thesis?

Remember to give equal weight to each topic.

**Summary statement** in last topic paragraph should relate back to thesis statement to lead towards a conclusion.

Conclusion: Use summary statements from each topic paragraph to demonstrate that the conclusion you have reached has been well-supported. The conclusion should restate the central point of your thesis and offer a tentative direction for future consideration.

DO NOT ADD ANY NEW MATERIAL IN YOUR FINAL PARAGRAPH

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