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 & Organization
    State subject/predicate of the paragraph
    Focus your view
    Progress through your ideas logically
    Clearly link all events and relationships
  ◊ Development
    Supporting details
    Specify examples and elaborate on them
    Develop your paragraphs evenly
    Give equal evaluation and weight to all points
  ◊ Coherence
    Sentences
    Relate sentence to your thesis and main idea
    Link one sentence to the next by paragraph idea
    Quotations
    Introduce quotes by your own prose
    Relate quotes to central idea
    Exemplify your point by quotes
    Elaborate or explain quotes by your prose
  ◊ Repetition
    Use only a word or phrase to make parallel link
    Avoid repeating the same statement
    Make sure synonyms convey intended meaning
  ◊ Completion
    Sufficiency
    Each sentence presents additional information
    Each sentence provides transition to next point
    Each sentence relates to and clarifies central idea

♦ 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!