

Writing an Essay

Writing an Introduction

- Why write a good introduction
 - First impression
 - Start paper off positively
 - Captures your reader's interest
 - Convinces a reader that your paper is worth reading
- Ideas to put in an introduction
 - Find an intriguing example
 - Use a quotation or statistic
 - Use an anecdote or story
 - Ask a thought provoking question
 - Give background on your topic
 - Have a great first sentence
 - Find startling information

Writing a Thesis

- A thesis is a one sentence summary of the main points of your paper
 - Example: Students who earn A's in their classes complete every assignment to the best of their ability, study for tests, and ask for help when they don't understand the subject matter.
- It is usually found at the end of your first paragraph

Body Paragraph 1

- Write your topic sentence
 - Details
 - Details
 - Details

Body Paragraph 2

- Write your topic sentence
 - Details
 - Details
 - details

Body Paragraph 3

- Write your topic sentence
 - Details
 - Details
 - details

Transitions

- Did you put transitions between paragraphs?
 - Makes your ideas flow smoothly

Writing an Essay

- <http://www.smart-words.org/linking-words/transition-words.html>
- <https://msu.edu/~jdowell/135/transw.html>

Writing a Conclusion

- Restate your main ideas in a different way
- Emphasize your main points
- Tell a short anecdote
- Leave the reader with an interesting final impression
- Propose a course of action (if it fits with your topic)
- DO NOT introduce any new ideas

Mechanical Errors

- Did you double check your spelling, punctuation, and grammar?

Research

- Did you use in-text referencing?
 - MLA style
 - author's last name and page number for a book
 - (Smith 25)
 - Title of the web page in quotations for a web page
 - ("The Biography of George Washington")
 - Intext referencing must match the first words in the works cited entry
- Do you have a works cited page?
 - On a separate page
 - In alphabetical order
 - Hanging indents

