

The Elements of an Excellent Essay!

Title:

- Conveys the main point of the essay in TEN words or fewer
- Finds a creative way to attract the reader's attention and interest
- Capitalize the first word and all important words that follow
 - Words that are **NOT** capitalized:
 - the, a, of, and, an etc.

Introduction:

- Begin with a sentence that captures the reader's attention
- Give background information on the topic
- Enhance the paragraph with an interesting example, surprise statistic, or other "hook"
- Include a **thesis statement**:
 - The thesis statement in an essay functions as follows:
 - It narrows your topic to a central idea—all topic sentences and body paragraphs will develop and support this idea
 - It asserts something specific and significant about the topic, conveying your expert opinion
 - It may preview how your ideas will be arranged within your essay
 - It is logical, precise, and reasonable

Body Paragraph #1:

- Begin with a topic sentence states the main point of the paragraph and relates it back to the thesis statement
- Fill your body paragraph with well-organized examples, quotations, comparisons, and analogies *that prove YOUR point*
- End with a transition to Body Paragraph #2

Body Paragraph #2:

- Begin with a topic sentence states the main point of the paragraph and relates it back to the thesis statement
- Fill your body paragraph with well-organized examples, quotations, comparisons, and analogies *that prove YOUR point*
- End with a transition to Body Paragraph #3

Body Paragraph #3, #4, #5 etc.:

- Begin with a topic sentence states the main point of the paragraph and relates it back to the thesis statement
- Fill your body paragraph with well-organized examples, quotations, comparisons, and analogies *that prove YOUR point*
- End with a transition to the conclusion

Conclusion:

- "Echo" the thesis statement (restate in different words). **Do not simply repeat it.**
- Include a detail or example from the introduction to "tie up" the essay