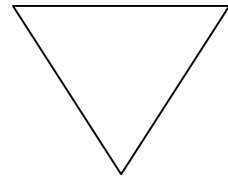


Paper Writing

Writing a paper should not be viewed as a one-step activity. Rather, it should be a process that involves multiple steps that allow you to organize your thoughts in a way that helps you to write a clear, persuasive, and eloquent essay.

In this class, every time you write a paper, you will be asked to complete either an outline and/or a draft. Both the outline and the draft will be handed in with the final draft for a grade. I am not requiring you to do outlines and drafts to make your life miserable but rather to help you become a better writer.

The structure of the essay is as follows (the model below is based on a 5-paragraph essay – you are not limited to only 5 paragraphs. Some papers will require more.):



Paragraph 1 (Introduction)

- The introduction should start broad and get more specific as it progresses.
- The first thing you should do is to introduce the reader to the larger context of the essay.
 - The first 1-2 sentences should contain background information (who, what, when, where, etc.)
 - For example, if you are writing a paper on the reality of immigrant's experience in America, your first 1-2 sentences should talk generally about immigration, when it took place, who came, and maybe why people came to America. Do not dive right into the topic of the essay without giving the reader some sense of time and place (context).
- After you introduce the topic, you need to make the connection to your specific topic – transition from background information into what you will be writing about.
- The last sentence of the paragraph should contain a clear, concise thesis statement.
 - What is a thesis statement?
 - A thesis statement should illustrate an argument that you will prove over the course of the paper.
 - A thesis statement should always contain brief mention of what the body of the paper will discuss in greater detail (i.e. it should summarize the topic sentences of the 3+ body paragraphs.)

- If the question asks you to defend a particular point, the thesis statement will state the point as a fact and back it up with brief mention of 3-5 major reasons why it is true. These reasons will then be the basis of the body of your paper.

Paragraph 2, 3, and 4 (Body Paragraphs #1-3)

- Each body paragraph should start with a topic sentence to preview to the reader what the paragraph will discuss.
- Each body paragraph should contain three examples to support the specific point being addressed in the paragraph.
 - Examples should include quotations, facts, statistics, etc. (with citations)
 - This is where you will usually include quotations from texts and citations from readings and notes that you have.
- The body of your paper should be as specific as possible and should offer as clear and vivid illustrations as possible.
- The last sentence should not only bring the paragraph to a conclusion, but it should also serve as a transition into the next body paragraph (i.e. find a connection or relationship between the two paragraphs.)

Paragraph 5 (Conclusion)

- The conclusion should summarize the contents of the entire paper *and* should try and offer some additional insights (intelligent comments or observations) about the topic.
- Restate your argument – *do not* cut and paste the introduction verbatim or try to change one or two of the words from the introduction!
- Open the paper up. It is here that you should try to do one of the following:
 - connect your paper to the larger historical picture
 - state its significance to the time period
 - relate it to later events or issues
 - think of other questions to ask (related to the topic)