

Elements of an Essay

Title

- Conveys the main point of the essay in 10 words or less
- Find a creative way to attract the reader's attention and interest
- Capitalize the first word and all the important words that follow

Introduction

- Begin with a sentence that captures the reader's attention
- Give background information on the topic
- Enhance the paragraph with an interesting example, surprising statistic, or other "hook"
- Include the thesis statement

Thesis Statement

- States the main idea of the essay
- More general than the supporting material
- May mention the main point of each of the body paragraphs

Body Paragraphs

- Begin with a topic sentence that states the main point of the paragraph and relates it to the thesis statement
- Fill with well-organized examples, quotations, comparisons, analogies, and/or narration
- May end with a transition

Conclusion

- "Echo" the thesis statement without simply repeating it
- May pose a question for future thought or suggest a course of action
- Include a detail or example from the introduction to "tie up" the essay
- End with a strong image or a bit of wit