

THE ESSAY – AN OVERVIEW

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Hook - Draws the reader into the idea presented in the thesis.

See Hook Handout for types: quote, philosophical musing, analogy, anecdote, shocking statement, etc.

Connector - Defines needed terms and makes a bridge to the thesis.

Transition into what you really want to discuss--the thesis.

Thesis - The entire point of the essay. Everything in your essay is designed to prove this statement.

See Thesis Handout -This is the entire point of the essay. Everything you write should assist in proving this statement.

EXAMPLES
The author is stating . . . about the theme of _____.
The character of _____ demonstrates. . .
The character is changed by. . .

B O D Y

Body Paragraphs: Provide support for the thesis. Contain a topic sentence that makes a **claim** to prove the thesis, **evidence** to support that claim, and **analysis** of how the evidence supports that claim. Several body paragraphs will be used to prove several claims that support the thesis. **At least three paragraphs** are usually needed.

First Paragraph – See Paragraph Organization Handout – Discusses the first character, event, or idea.

Second Paragraph – Discusses the second character, event, or idea. Try to go **chronologically or in order of importance**.

Third Paragraph – Discusses the third character, event, or idea. Make sure you keep relating your ideas back to the thesis.

Transitions – See Transitions Handout - connect paragraph ideas together.

C O N C L U S I O N

Conclusion – States what was proved in the body of the essay, which is basically the thesis. Points out why the thesis is significant. Gives a finished feel to the essay.

EXAMPLES:
It is clear that. . .
The author certainly provides an argument that. . .
In conclusion. . .
One can see from these arguments that. . .