

General Writing Explanations

Intro paragraph

Thesis:

The thesis is one sentence that takes a stand on the prompt and is positive. It must be able to stand alone without the reader seeing the prompt.

Remember!

- a. Address the prompt directly using words from the prompt
- b. Be persuasive
- c. If your thesis involves “best” or “most” of something, then you **MUST** address the other things to some extent to prove yours is the best or the most.

Background:

The background is one sentence that sets the time, place, people...situation. Do not argue in the background.

Plan of Attack:

The plan of attack is one sentence that foreshadows the order of your body paragraphs.

Remember!

- a. It usually contains three (3) points that will be argued in the essay.
- b. Introduce broad evidence here, not specific examples. Save the specifics for your body paragraphs.

Body Paragraphs

Topic Sentence:

The topic sentence is one sentence that broadly argues the main idea of the paragraph.

Remember!

- a. Each topic sentence argues one part of the plan of attack and should further develop the thesis.
- b. A topic sentence acts as the thesis of the body paragraph it introduces.

Body Paragraph:

The background is one sentence that sets the time, place, people...situation. Do not argue in the background.

Plan of Attack:

Each body paragraph should offer at least three (3) concrete details and at least one (1) piece of commentary on each detail.

Remember!

- a. This is similar to the *chunk* in Language Arts writing.
- b. Detail and commentary in social studies writing might be combined in one (1) sentence but could include as many as two (2) to three (3) sentences.

Concluding Paragraph

Restatement of Thesis:

This is one (1) or two (2) sentences that restate and emphasize the thesis.

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Comparative Introductory Paragraphs

Language Arts	Language Arts	Social Studies
<u>Clincher</u> Broad Statement Less Broad <u>Thesis</u>	<u>Controlling Idea</u> <u>Thesis</u>	<u>Thesis</u> Background <u>Plan of Attack</u>