

1. Introduction: Your introductory paragraph should contain the following three parts:

a) Introduction to your topic: a general discussion, of one to four sentences in length, in which you get your reader thinking about your topic.

ex. The idea that every child can grow up to become president is at the heart of the American Dream. It speaks to how people are not limited by family origins, class distinctions, or lack of money, and that with hard work and determination they can be successful.

b) Introduce the character and/or book you will be discussing in your essay.

ex. The idea of the modern American Dream is explored in Ken Kesey's novel One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

c) State your thesis:

ex. (An analysis of) The events in the novel show the reader that the modern American Dream is a corrupt version of its optimistic past.

2. Middle Paragraph: Take the information from your outline, convert to complete sentences and integrate quotations properly. Each middle paragraph should contain the following:

- a) A topic sentence
- b) Explanation of your topic idea: what it means, how it relates to your thesis, etc.
- c) Quotation #1, with explanation
- d) Quotation #2, with explanation
- e) A concluding sentence that either sums up topic, relates topic back to the thesis, or leads into next topic idea

3. Conclusion: Your conclusion should be structured in the reverse form of your introduction and contain two parts:

- a) "In Conclusion," + re-statement of thesis
- b) In one to four sentences, provide a general summary and/or give the reader something to think about in relation to your topic.

- Due in teacher's hands (or his mailbox), by the end of day, in hard copy, printed form, Friday December 19. As of Monday January 5, 25% late, and another 5% late per day to a maximum of 35%, or until I return the marked essays to the class.
- Be sure to include all process work with your good copy. There is a mark for process and if an essay appears without any I will search on-line for it.
- Attach your assignment rubric to the back of your essay
- Include a title page, following one of the formats listed in the English Department Style Guide (Copies of Style Guide included in Student Planner and on-line, listed under English Resources on Library Web site).
- Double space, on one side of the page only, the entire essay
- Underline or italicize book titles
- No contractions in a formal essay.
- No use of the personal pronoun "I"
- Must reference all quotations cited in essay: quotations must follow proper Style Guide form.
- Properly introduce/integrate all quotations: as a rule, don't start a sentence with a quotation, or end a paragraph with one
- Include a complete Works Cited page at end of essay. (see Style Guide for proper format)