

Tips to Improve Your Essay

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Make sure you carefully read and understand the instructions and the prompt of your essay.

Title: Think of an interesting title that is not too long and connects to your essay.

Introduction:

1. Try to use an interesting hook: a quote, a fact or statistic, an image (which paints a picture about the topic with words briefly), an anecdote (a brief story of an experience in your life related to the topic), or a question. After your hook, comment on it briefly.
2. Give background information. Briefly write about what you think the reader should know about the topic.
3. Connect to your thesis and end your introduction with your thesis statement. Be sure your thesis answers the question/s in the prompt or follows the direction/s of the prompt.

Body Paragraphs:

1. Start with a topic sentence, which is a mini thesis that includes one of your controlling or supporting ideas. If possible, try to express your topic sentence a little bit differently than the thesis, using synonyms and/or different grammar, so that the thesis is not simply repeated, but be sure to keep the same meaning and include your supporting idea.
2. Explain your supporting idea.
3. Connect to your support. If you use a reading, you can say what qualifies the author to write about the topic. Maybe he/she is an expert in the field, has studied what you are writing about, has written about it, etc.
4. Properly introduce your support. If it is a reading, remember to put the author's full name and the article's, book's, or website's name (articles capitalized and in quotation marks – books and websites italicized), and then either quote or paraphrase, depending on your instructions. You might choose to paraphrase rather than quote when the source's language is not particularly memorable. Remember your in-text citing if you have learned it. If your support is an example from life, describe it briefly, but be as detailed as possible.
5. After writing about a reading and/or your personal example, be sure to comment on or analyze each one.
6. End in a sentence summarizing your body paragraph, keeping your supporting idea in mind. You can also end in a lesson if it fits the topic and your supporting idea.

Conclusion:

Depending on your instructions, you can thoughtfully and briefly summarize your supporting ideas (not just list them) and end with a personal comment which can be a prediction of the future, a warning, a piece of advice, a call to action, etc., or you can conclude your essay with a lesson, a call to action, or a prediction of the future.