Academic Paper Organization

Thesis Formula:
- I am studying __________
- because I want to find out ______________
- In order to understand about_________________

First Paragraph:
1. Attention-catching sentence (General Topic)
2. Explain the relationship between #1 and your thesis.
3. State your thesis
4. Trajectory sentence (This essay will look first at X, then at Y, and finally at Z.)
5. Transition into point X

Second Paragraph:
1. Restate supporting point X (Nod back to thesis) “P” = Point
2. Provide evidence of point X “I” = Illustration
3. Spell-out how the evidence proves point X “E” = Explanation
4. Transition into point Y

Third Paragraph:
1. Restate supporting point Y (Nod back to thesis) “P” = Point
2. Provide evidence of point Y “I” = Illustration
3. Spell-out how the evidence proves point Y “E” = Explanation
4. Transition into point Z

Fourth Paragraph:
1. Restate supporting point Z (Nod back to thesis) “P” = Point
2. Provide evidence of point Z “I” = Illustration
3. Spell-out how the evidence proves point Z “E” = Explanation
4. Transition into a restatement of your thesis

Fifth Paragraph:
1. Restate thesis
2. Restate trajectory statement
3. Broaden it back to your attention-catching statement
4. Conclusion/exigency statement (“so what?”) – related to your attention-catcher

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