



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