Organizing Your Paper

The Six Trait Analytic Rating Guide factors into the organization of your paper. It's important that your paper is designed to lead the reader's eye. Introductions and conclusions must be strong while smooth transitions are expected throughout all paragraphing. The organization of a paper shouldn't overshadow the content of the paper. You must maintain control and provide compelling, but well-controlled pacing that allows details to fall into place naturally.

General Outline of an Essay

Thesis Statement:

The thesis statement is integral to your paper. The thesis states the purpose of your paper (very clearly) and will be supported by the rest of the information on your paper. In addition to keeping the reader focused, your thesis statement will help you maintain focus as you convey supporting information. When creating your thesis statement, ensure that it is focused and concise. Your thesis statement should not, however, be a service announcement or read like a title.

Introduction

- Provide general information that will lay the foundation for your thesis statement.
- Capture the reader's attention and establish some ground to build from. As you get closer to delivering your thesis statement, sharpen the focus of your ideas.
- Deliver the thesis statement. Your thesis states the exact purpose or argument that will be explored in the rest of your paper. All of the information in your paper should coincide with and support your thesis statement.

Body Paragraphs

- Provide a topic sentence for each paragraph. Let the reader know what you'll be talking about.
- Provide the main idea that supports your topic sentence with evidence.
- Make an analysis of the evidence you've given. For instance, if you provided the reader with a quote, comment on how it reflects on the main idea of the paragraph.
- Relate how this information supports your thesis for the paper before providing a lead into the next paragraph.
- Follow this basic formula when writing each body paragraph.

Conclusion

- Restate the thesis for your paper in new words, providing a new or developed insight into the idea.

- Bring the focus of your paragraph to something more general after restating your thesis. Attempt to bring your paper full circle. Provide closure or challenge your reader to act on what they've read.