

GENERAL ESSAY FORMAT / Thesis-driven

INTRODUCTION

Start with broad ideas

Strategies to grab the reader's attention:

- Historical connection
- Anecdote
- Surprising statement
- Relevant quote

BODY OF ESSAY

Organize your REASONS into topic sentences
(most to least important; least to most important)

Each paragraph should develop a REASON

SUPPORT with facts, examples, evidence
Personal commentary: elaborate, interpret, give YOUR
reaction, thoughts

ADDRESS the opposition: State the opposing view and
knock it down! (only for argumentative essays)

Use smooth transition statements between paragraphs

TRANSITIONS

for example
not only/but also
most important
for example
on the other hand
likewise
in addition
therefore
first
next
finally
however
another
in spite of
similarly
as a result
for this reason
since

CONCLUSION (So What?)

Short and Sweet—Don't repeat
Reinforce the ideas addressed in essay

Use introductory strategies and move from
specific to broad—the opposite of the
Introduction