

General Guidelines

- Strictly follow instructions;
- No grammar issues;
- clear logic chain with smooth transitions between sentences;
- Strong thesis statement;
- Clear topic sentence (argument) backed up with evidence and analysis (Analysis must exceed 50% by your words);
- **Correct citation format: 1" inch margin, Times New Roman 12.**
- Read general writing instruction first, and use the 5-paragraph structure to write

General Instruction

Paper Structure

Title

Paragraph 1

Introduction + Thesis Statement (at the end)

Paragraph 2

Topic sentence #1 (Argument #1/Claim#1) +

- Example/evidence (please use words, such as “according to”, “for example”, etc.)
- Analysis by your words (Why, How, What, etc.)
- One sentence summary
- Transition

Paragraph 3

Topic sentence #2 (Argument #2) +

- Example/evidence (please use words, such as “according to”, “for example”, etc.)
- Analysis by your words (Why, How, What, etc.)
- One sentence summary
- Transition

Paragraph 4 (**Against point**)

Topic sentence #3 (Argument #3) +

- Example/evidence (please use words, such as “according to”, “for example”, etc.)
- Analysis by your words (Why, How, What, etc.)
- One sentence summary
- Transition

Paragraph 5

Conclusion

Attention

Please do not use “I, **you**”, “**we**” or “**us**” unless required in the instruction. Instead, please use “people”, “individuals” or other more appropriate words.

Please do not divide too many paragraphs in the essay and make sure the structure is good to follow. Long sentence should not appear frequently in the essay.

A descriptive essay usually is not accepted; please make sure you have substantial critical analysis in your essay. For example, you need include **analysis on “why”, “how”, “good or bad”, etc. in the essay.**

Please check this website for more details

http://www.internationalstudent.com/essay_writing/essay_tips/

What is a thesis statement

A thesis takes a position on an issue. It announces, in addition to the topic, the argument you want to make or the point you want to prove. This is your own opinion that you intend to back up. This is your reason and motivation for writing.

- Makes an **argumentative assertion** about a topic; it states the **conclusions that you have reached** about your topic.
- Makes a promise to the reader about the **scope, purpose, and direction** of your paper.

Where should I insert thesis statement

Is generally located **near the end of the introduction**; sometimes, in a long paper, the thesis will be expressed in several sentences or in an entire paragraph.

When to include a thesis statement

When an assignment asks you to analyze, to interpret, to compare and contrast, to demonstrate cause and effect, or to take a stand on an issue, it is likely that you are being asked to develop a thesis and to support it persuasively

Examples

(Bad) The government has the right to limit free speech.

(Good) The government has the right to limit free speech in cases of overtly racist or sexist language because our failure to address such abuses would effectively suggest that our society condones such ignorant and hateful views.

(Bad) There are always alternatives to using racist speech.

(Good) The "fighting words" exception to free speech is not legitimate because it wrongly

considers speech as an action.

(Bad) None of the arguments in favor of regulating pornography are persuasive.

(Good) None of the arguments in favor of regulating pornography are persuasive because they all base their points on the unverifiable and questionable assumption that the producers of pornography necessarily harbor ill will specifically to women.