

Writing 2101

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Week 10

- "Does your paper or project do what the assignment asks for?"
  - Analyze? Compare? Contrast? Etc. . . .
  - Length? Format? Resources? Etc. . . .

What are the rules for our essay?

- Is your thesis clear/explicit?
  - "In this paper, I argue . . . "



How else can you make your thesis stand out?

 Does each paragraph begin with a clear topic sentence that relates to your thesis?

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What are the elements of a good topic sentence?

- Does each argument have equal support?
  - Each argument draws from an equal number of sources
  - Each paragraph is about the same length



What are the elements of a good piece of evidence?

- Is the arrangement of your paper optimal?
  - Is your strongest argument first?
  - Do your arguments build on one another?

How do you know which of your arguments is the strongest?



- Did you anticipate and respond to your critics' arguments?
  - What would someone who disagrees with you say?

How can you uncover counter-arguments?

- Did you give enough background information?
  - Would somebody who does not know anything about your topic be able to read your paper?
  - Did you give all necessary definitions?
  - Did you avoid jargon?
  - History? Key dates? Etc. . . .

How can you determine what background information is necessary?

