

# Writing 2.0

Essay Structure

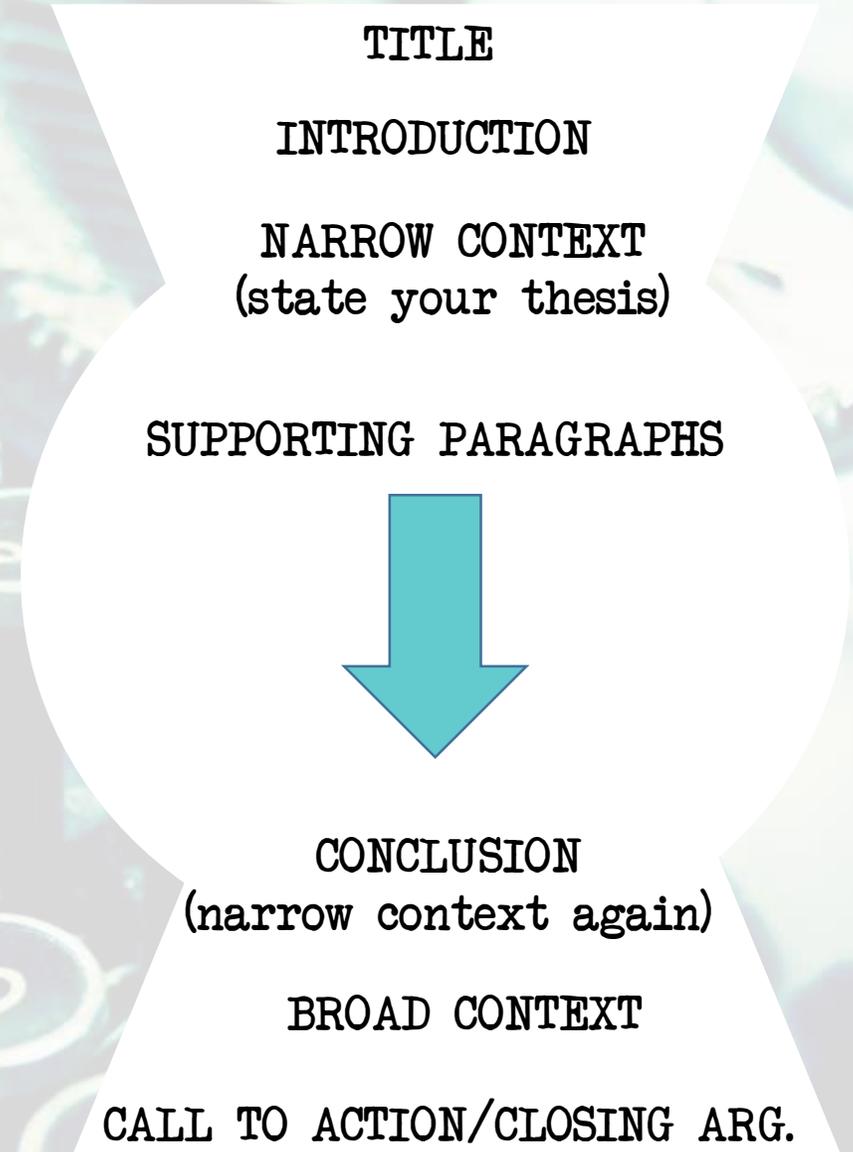
&

Organization

# Shape of Essay

Watch out boys and girls!  
A new way to write your  
essay has arrived!

Please copy down the  
illustration on your own  
notes, complete with titles  
within the drawing.



# Title

- Give your essay a title that captures your reader's interest!
- Hint at the direction of your subject matter
- Be careful! Your title sets the tone of your essay
  - It's the "first impression" your reader gets of your writing and YOU

# Introduction

- The purpose of an introduction is to engage the reader and give them the background information they need about the subject matter
  - Introduce the topic and take some time to explain it
  - Take as many paragraphs as you need to do this
  - Establish a connection with the reader
- Set the stage by providing the reader with a BROAD context
  - Start with a very general, non-specific idea that is loosely connected to the main idea or topic.
  - Get creative! You can really play around with what you discuss in the introduction, as long as it leads to the main idea.

# Introduction

- Some suggestions for your introduction:
  1. Define related terms
  2. Discuss related history
  3. Use an anecdote/story/narrative
  4. Use a provocative quote
  5. Insert an alarming statistic or fact
  6. Ask a rhetorical question (Be careful! Don't ask dumb questions!)
  7. Relate a dramatic episode
  8. Use wit and humor (if appropriate)

# Narrowing the Context

- Start leading the reader to the narrower, more specific topic you will be discussing in the essay
- Introduce the specific statement, author, or passage from the writing task
  - Take time to EXPLAIN it
- State your thesis (thesis statement= topic + opinion)
  - Defend, Challenge, or Qualify
    - Defend: You agree with the statement and will spend your supporting paragraphs providing evidence to prove why and how it is true/right
    - Challenge: You disagree with the statement and will spend your supporting paragraphs showing why and how it is false/wrong
    - Qualify: In order to agree with the statement, modification must be made and you will spend your supporting paragraphs providing evidence to support the changes to the statement and proving why it's right but only with the modifications
  - Your thesis is essentially your answer to the question or author's argument proposed in the writing task. You are setting the expectations that **MUST** be fulfilled in the paragraphs to follow.

# Supporting Paragraphs

- Remember! A thesis sets forth the main idea of your paper while a topic sentence sets forth the main idea of your paragraph!
- Write meaningful and sufficiently broad topic sentences
- Support your topic sentences and paragraphs with facts and relevant information (EVIDENCE)
- Relate ALL content and evidence in your paragraphs to the topic sentence
  - This helps create a logical sequence of thought and unity among your ideas
  - If a sentence doesn't support the topic sentence, take it out!

# Supporting Paragraphs

- Choose transitional words and expressions carefully to achieve logical coherence
  - Avoid sounding repetitive and formulaic
  - Use more sophisticated words and phrases than "First, Second, Third..."
- Vary your sentence pattern (syntax)
- Choose precise diction and active verbs
- Use passive voice sparingly
- Use vivid and lively language, creating fresh comparisons
- In argumentative writing, present your weakest argument first

# Conclusion

- Begin with your narrowed context
- Remind the reader of your stance *WITHOUT* restating your thesis
- Hit on a list or summarize your major points
- Begin moving out into a broader context
  - Start "wrapping-up" your discussion
- Questions to consider:
  1. What have you learned throughout this unit?
  2. How have your ideas and opinions changes and why?
  3. Why should the reader care about what you have to say?
- Look forward to the future and make predictions
- Suggest solutions and resolutions
- Leave the reader with a "call-to-action" if appropriate
- You are a lawyer presenting your closing arguments to the jury (your reader)