Paper Writing Tips

**Introductions**

Boilerplate Thesis (the one you can use for starters and revise further once you start writing your paper)

Although ___________, (really) ___________.

**Fully Developed Paragraphs**

7-10 sentences

1. topic sentence
2-3 elaborate/specify topic sentence with greater detail
    connecting to prev paragraph and/or overall theme
1-2 introducing a textual reference (summary or into direct quote)
1-2 paraphrase/summary of the quote
1-2 comment on the quote – explain your understanding of the quote
to be sure that the reader understands it like you do
1-2 connect the textual reference to your topic sentence and/or
    overall argument
1-2 transition to your next paragraph

6/7-10/11 sentences

7-10 sentences (no reference to the text)

1. topic sentence
2-3 elaborate/specify topic sentence with greater detail
    connecting to prev paragraph and/or overall theme
3-4 comparing to an alternate view – either supporting or contrasting
    with yours (My idea is like this other idea in that it _____. OR
    While some people think that ___, my research shows____.)
2-3 explaining how your view is stronger and/or better than others
1-2 connect content explicitly to topic sentence and overall argument
1 transition to next paragraph

7/9-11/12 sentences

**Conclusions**

Always challenging, but do your best!

Restate a revised version of your thesis (go back to boilerplate if you have to) – only you want this one to be
stronger, more forthright, because now you have the support of your whole paper behind you.

Avoid summarizing your paper. Now that you have presented all of your research, you could suggest where
you go next. But be careful – don’t open too big of an idea, but just leave the reader with the next thing to
consider.