

# 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
- 1-2 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

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6/7-10/11 sentences

7-10 sentences (no reference to the text)

- 1 topic sentence
- 1-2 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

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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.