



***WRITING  
RESEARCH  
ESSAYS***

## ***ULTIMATELY, HERE IS WHAT YOUR ESSAY WILL LOOK LIKE:***

- × Thesis statement/intro paragraph
- × Example/Description #1
- × Analysis of #1
- × Example/Description #2
- × Analysis of #2
- × Example/Description #3
- × Analysis of #3
- × Concluding paragraph

# ***YOUR OVERALL PLAN***

Follow these steps to help all of your ideas get communicated clearly and with strength.

You have FOUR things to think through: *Intro, Body with EXAMPLES and ANALYSIS, and Conclusion*

## INTRO:

Focus on these types of sentences for your Thesis Statement (at the start, you will start to write the thesis statement, but you will keep adding to it as you work-out the other ideas/points for your essay

1. "I am going to discuss \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Researchers such as \_\_\_\_\_ (year) and \_\_\_\_\_ (year) provide data and discussion on this topic.
3. "This topic is important because \_\_\_\_\_."

## BODY of Essay:

Decide which Examples or Details are most powerful or appropriate for explaining one of your supporting points

Task: Choose Examples and Details from books, articles, and films to explain your ideas. When you use Examples, your job is to fully DESCRIBE the example.

Decide how to analyze one of your supporting points

Task: Once you have great Examples or Details chosen, then think about what your Analysis needs to look like for your supporting point. When you are writing-out your Analysis, you are no longer DESCRIBING, you are ANALYZING.

# ***THESIS!***



THESIS Statement Should Be Simple: "I am going to discuss \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ these are important because \_\_\_\_\_." [the second part of this sentence might not be clear for you until you're almost done writing the essay...]

**EXAMPLES or DETAILS** that you use in your description paragraphs should come from the THESIS statement (i.e. the blank spots).

# ***MORE ON EXAMPLES***

Find **EXAMPLES** from the publications that you listed in your Thesis statement.

## ***LIST YOUR EXAMPLES OF DETAILS:***

- × Depending on the size of your essay, you will need three or more EXAMPLES or DETAILS.
- × Write the gist of each EXAMPLE or DETAIL just as if you were going to write a short story/vignette.
- × The first sentences of each EXAMPLE should look something like:

“In this first example, racial myths in the legal system will become obvious.” Then write the description of the EXAMPLE such as: The invention of the idea of race was used to write laws against Black Americans and Immigrants.

or

“In this example, I illustrate the way that animism is part of the religious belief system.” Then write the description of the EXAMPLE such as: the caves are governed by other worldly creatures, making the problems miners have with rocks and mining animated or alive .

# BIG



Remember that when you write  
EXAMPLES or DETAILS, you are only  
DESCRIBING, not ANALYZING. Save  
analysis until you have fully  
DESCRIBED the EXAMPLE.

# ***HERE'S WHERE YOU SHOULD BE IN YOUR WRITING PLAN***

## Thesis

1. You have written what your essay is about.
2. You have written which sources you will use in your essay.

## Examples

1. You have chosen interesting **EXAMPLES** or **DETAILS** to explain each point in your Thesis statement.
2. You have written the **EXAMPLES** like short stories (e.g. 2–3 sentences).



## ***NOW YOU ARE BEGINNING TO GET YOUR ANALYSIS ORGANIZED:***

### **EXAMPLE or DETAIL #1**

1. What does this EXAMPLE show (i.e. the author's complaint or argument)?
2. What is important about this EXAMPLE (i.e. types of data/evidence used)?
3. What do most people not think about regarding this EXAMPLE (i.e. use analyses that we've focused on in class)?

### **EXAMPLE or DETAIL #2 EXAMPLE or DETAIL #3**

1. What does this EXAMPLE show?
  2. What is important about this EXAMPLE?
  3. What do most people not think about regarding this EXAMPLE?
1. What does this EXAMPLE show?
  2. What is important about this EXAMPLE?
  3. What do most people not think about regarding this EXAMPLE?

**Write 3-5 sentences per analysis paragraph...**

## ***START PIECING TOGETHER ALL COMPONENTS OF YOUR ESSAY***

- × Thesis statement/paragraph
- × Example/Description #1
- × Analysis of #1
- × Example/Description #2
- × Analysis of #2
- × Example/Description #3
- × Analysis of #3
- × Concluding paragraph

## ***LOOK-UP THE SOURCES/RESEARCHERS ONLINE***

Take a break from your EXAMPLES and ANALYZING. Go to the internet and look-up the sources and/or researchers that you are referencing in your essay (e.g. look for public lectures that they have given). Spend 10–15 minutes listening to how the researchers talk about their own work. Compare your EXAMPLES and Analysis to their video lectures.

You will most likely come away from this 10–15 minutes very proud of your own work. You will see how great of an Analysis you already have.



**THESIS: “This topic is  
important because**

**”**

\_\_\_\_\_

Now you are ready to write this sentence for your intro. Think about what all of your examples/details and analyses “say.” Collapse the body of your essay into this one sentence.

***START DRAFTING YOUR  
CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH***



# **FINALIZE YOUR CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH**

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   |   |
| First sentence  | <b>“The examples in this essay illustrate the importance of this topic. The example with _____ is particularly striking because _____.”</b> |
| Remind readers of the importance with a very specific sentence                              | <b>“This topic is worth studying because _____.”</b>  |
| Then state exactly why the Analyzing that you did helps to show the importance of the topic | <b>“Overall, the examples and data showed that _____ [insert the “big picture” of your essay]</b>   |

# ***THESIS***

Keep it to 3–4 succinct sentences

# ***BODY OF ESSAY***

Choose EXAMPLES and DETAILS and then fully describe them.

# ***ANALYZE***

Based on the EXAMPLES, DETAILS, and the sources/researchers that you use in your essay, point out the most important things to “see” in the examples.

You did it!