Writing 101 Name:

American Studies

**Thesis Statement Components:**

* All thesis statement should include  ​

Must be debatable​

Must be able to be supported with FACTS/QUOTES​

 ​

How? & Why?​

 ​

So what?​

**Introduction Components**

* ​
* *Integrated* Quote​, Anecdote​, Interesting Historical Content​

DO NOT !​

* ​
* You should be introducing the reader to the topic and the topic’s context in history.​
* ​

​

**What are the differences between…**

a weak introduction

an OK introduction

a strong introduction?

**Thesis/BT relation**

* There must be a between each Body Thesis and your Main Thesis.​
* Your Body Theses are the main points you are using to  .​
* Any weakness in your BODY THESES is a weakness in your entire paper​

**Paragraph Breakdown & Topic Sentences**

* Each BT in your paper  !!!!!!​
	+ Instead each BT will lead into a multi-paragraph section of your paper.​
	+ Each paragraph that does not have a BT must have a clearly developed Topic Sentence.​

**Support (Facts, Evidence, Proof)**

* MOST IMPORTANT  ​
* Don’t simply the reader the general factual info​
* The country fell in love with the film.​
* The president was admired for his decision.​
* the reader with SPECIFIC facts​
* The film was the highest grossing film of the year, making 43 million dollars, and it also won four academy awards.​
* The president’s approval rating rose by 15% after his decision. His advisor, John Smith, noted, “It seemed as though the nation felt he truly saved the country from ruin.”​

**PRIMARY SOURCES MAKE GREAT SPECIFIC SUPPORT​**

* + Quotes (verbal, newspaper, legal, etc.)​
	+ Choose wisely as to not impede readability​
	+ Be sure to integrate the quotes appropriately​
	+ Statistics​
	+ Try to put into your own words whenever possible​
	+ Be sure to avoid too many lists of stats​

​

**Commentary/Analysis**

* Commentary/Analysis is key to an academic paper. It has several functions.​
* Explains concrete specific details when they are unclear.​
*
* Draws analytical conclusions about concrete specific details. ​
* BE CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE TOO BIG OF LEAPS.​
* Draws connections from concrete specific details to both BTs & MTs. ​
* CONNECTIONS SHOULD BE LOGICAL & WELL-DEVELOPED.​
*

**Conclusion Development**

* A conclusion should…​
1.
2.
3.

**Conclusion Suggestions**

* Answer the question "So What?" ​
	+ Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful.​
* Synthesize, don't summarize ​
	+ Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random but fit together. ​
* Redirect your readers ​
	+ Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally. ​
* Create a new meaning ​
	+ You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts. ​

**In-Text Citations**

* Follow MLA format in ALL CASES!!!!​

**Quoting and Paraphrasing Reminders**

Unless directly quoted, all information must be put into your own words.​

- If you directly quote a source, you must put the quote in ““. ​

  - You also must put the citation DIRECTLY after the quote. ​

- You should have no more than **2** secondary quotes.​

- You may have unlimited primary quotes; however,…

        ~do not add too many because it may hinder the readability of the paper.​

​

~ When putting information into your own words, remember the paraphrasing rule. **No more than 4 words in the same order as the source.**​

​~ Simply changing the order of words does not mean paraphrasing. You must change that actual wording of the information.​