![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\77F0CBGW\MC900357981[1].wmf]()Steps for Writing a Strong Essay

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1. **Step 1** – Determine the type of essay you are writing
	1. **Persuasive** will ask you to **CONVINCE** or **ARGUE** for or against something.
		1. **Example** - An old proverb says honesty is the best policy. Sometimes, however, honesty might hurt a person’s feelings. Explain why you either agree or disagree with being honest at all times.
		2. Why is this persuasive?
	2. **Expository** will ask you to **explain** something.
		1. **Example** - Identify a challenge facing students, and use specific details and examples to explain ways to overcome that challenge.
		2. ![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\C7W7CA4R\MM900295151[1].gif]()Why is this expository?
2. **Step 2 –** Who is the intended audience?
	1. Even though your teacher will read your essay and is the most obvious audience, sometimes you have to consider - **Who are you intending to receive your opinions or explanations**?
	2. **Prompt:** Some people believe owning a pet is important, while others do not. Using specific details and examples to support your position, argue for or against owning a pet.
		1. Who is the intended audience?
	3. **Prompt:** What makes someone a success? Explain how you define success, using specific details and examples in your response.
		1. Who is the intended audience?
3. **Step 3** – Prewriting
	1. Begin your 4 square prewrite – **Start with the introduction**:
		1. **![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Z5KC65VD\MC900078732[1].wmf]()**Develop your **thesis** (the answer to the question).
			1. **The question**: Some people believe owning a pet is important, while others do not. Using specific details and examples to support your position, argue for or against owning a pet.
			2. The answer (thesis): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		2. **Think about your thesis**. How will you **hook your audience** into your thesis?
			1. **![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\77F0CBGW\MM900336585[1].gif]()The question**: Some people believe owning a pet is important, while others do not. Using specific details and examples to support your position, argue for or against owning a pet.
			2. Hook: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
		3. How will you **connect your hook** to your thesis? This is your **bridge**.
			1. **![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\6GGV3GY9\MC900389056[1].wmf]()The question**: Some people believe owning a pet is important, while others do not. Using specific details and examples to support your position, argue for or against owning a pet.
			2. Bridge: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	2. **![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Z5KC65VD\MC900198184[1].wmf]()The Body** (1-2 paragraphs) – This is where you will **support your thesis with evidence and details.**
		1. What is your **first reason** to support your thesis?
			1. **The question:** Some people believe owning a pet is important, while others do not. Using specific details and examples to support your position, argue for or against owning a pet.
			2. **Topic sentence** of body paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
				1. ![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\77F0CBGW\MP900398749[1].jpg]()How will you **support this reason**? Can you provide a relevant elaboration (the WHY) for the reasons?

Support 1 –

Because . . .

Support 2 –

Because . . .

Support 3 –

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Because . . .

* + - 1. You will repeat this process if you have another reason. This would then give you 2 body paragraphs.
	1. **The Closing** (the last paragraph) – This is where you restate your thesis, your reason(s), and give you final thoughts and feelings on the topic (**in that order!!!)**
		1. **The question**: Some people believe owning a pet is important, while others do not. Using specific details and examples to support your position, argue for or against owning a pet.
			1. **Restate the thesis** (go back to your introduction but try and word it a bit differently) - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			2. **Restate your key reasons** (go back to your body or body paragraphs) - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			3. **Give your final thoughts and feelings on the topic**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Step 4** – Write your rough draft – Now put your prewrite into actual well developed sentences and paragraphs.
	1. **Indent** each paragraph.
	2. **Skip lines** when drafting so you have space when you revise and edit.
2. **Step 5 Revise** – Revising is when you go back and adjust word choice, sentence structure, details, and organization.
	1. Look at your sentences: Do they . . .
		1. All **begin** with the **same word**?
		2. ![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\C7W7CA4R\MM900283881[1].gif]()Sound awkward because **you haven’t fully explained your thoughts**?
		3. Need to be **combined** because they are choppy?
	2. Look at your word choice: Can you . . .
		1. Add **adjectives** to describe nouns or pronouns?
		2. Add **adverbs** to describe verbs, adverbs, or adjectives?
		3. Use **stronger words** that are higher level?
		4. Be **more specific** for the reader to add tone?
	3. Look at organization – Did you follow all the steps in Roman numeral III?
		1. If the essay is clear and organized, you shouldn’t have to verbally explain anything to the reader.
3. **Step 6 Editing** – Editing is when you go back and correct grammar mistakes.
	1. Spelling
	2. Fragments and run-ons
	3. Punctuation mistakes
	4. Correct verb tense
4. **Step 7 Final Copy**
	1. Once you have made all your revising and editing corrections, you are now ready to work on your final.
	2. Tips for typing:
		1. 11 or 12 font
		2. Something legible (needs to have capitals and lowercase – no cursive)
		3. Tab key to indent paragraphs
		4. ![C:\Users\jjharrel\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\C7W7CA4R\MP900316779[1].jpg]()First thing you type:
			1. Name (enter)
			2. Date (enter)
			3. English 8 (enter)
			4. Block \_\_\_\_\_\_ (enter)
		5. Next you hit the center key – Type your title (enter)
		6. Click back on the right align key:
		7. Hit tab and begin typing your

introduction