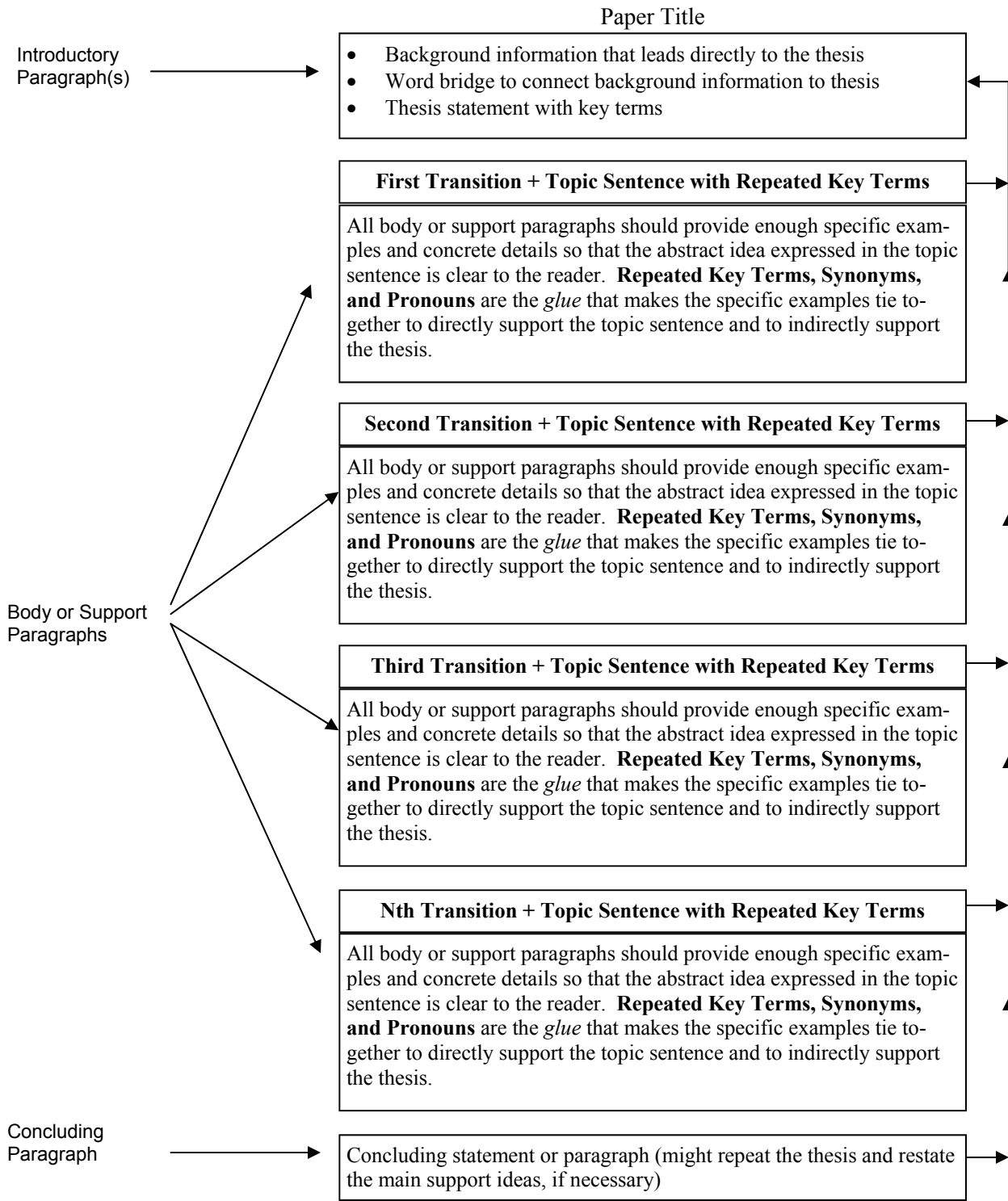


Proper Essay Framework and Structure

A basic use of framework and structure will provide a repeatable pattern for presenting information in ways most readily understood by readers.

The following graphic should help you understand what this repeatable pattern **could** look like:



The number of support paragraphs and the structural elements (transitions, repeated key terms, synonyms, pronouns, etc.) are only representative and **should not** be slavishly followed. Sometimes, for example, topic sentences are not the first sentence in a paragraph. These elements **should** be varied to meet reader needs and to develop the thesis.

Sample Using Proper Essay Framework and Structure

Descriptive
Title

THE COMMON ENGLISH PAPER: A CAMPUS KILLER

Introductory
Paragraph

Of all the college assignments given, the type I dislike the most is the common English paper. Nothing short of a final examination can frazzle my nerves the way the thought of an essay can. At the first mention of the word “paper,” I begin to experience the same sequence of emotions that a dying man faces with his prognosis: shock, denial, grief, and finally, resolution.

Background that points to thesis. Clear thesis statement with a table of contents containing key terms.

The first phase of this sequence is known as the shock stage. It begins at the same moment the assignment is announced. Immediately, I feel the symptoms coming on: loss of color, palpitations, clammy palms, and a feeling of weakness in the knees. At that moment I’m very grateful that I’m already sitting down. After the initial shock has occurred, a feeling of numbness spreads over my entire body until it reaches the brain area, where it lingers for four or five days, or until the project is due.

Strong topic sentences with transitions and repeated key terms

Body
Paragraphs

The second stage is known as the denial period. During this phase the most common symptom is denial that the assignment actually exists. This symptom bears a strong resemblance to amnesia, although during this phase I have no trouble remembering my name, social security number, or the entire plot of last Friday’s episode of *Days of Our Lives*. Procrastination is also prevalent during this period, if and when minor flashbacks of memory occur. This stage may last anywhere from six days to two hours before the project is due.

Strong topic sentence with transitions and repeated key terms

Effective use of specifics.

The third stage occurs after I accidentally stumble upon my English notebook and learn the due date is only hours away. This grim realization brings me violently into the grief phase. First, I cry. Then I follow it up with a brief withdrawal period which I spend somberly reflecting on the bitter question, “Why me?” Unable to find a legitimate answer, I sink desperately to my knees and vow to give up all my worldly vices for just one tiny spark of divine inspiration. But due to my unpardonable sin of procrastination, no inspiration is granted.

Strong topic sentence with transitions and repeated key terms

Conclusion
is included in
the last body
Paragraph

Eventually I am forced to face reality. After three fruitless hours on my knees and an eternity of empty promises, my pant legs begin to wear thin, and I know I must accept the inevitable. This fourth and final stage is known as the resolution period. At this point I begin to prepare myself to leave behind all my earthly pleasures: Doritos and Salsa, *CSI*, dates, and the most precious possession of all: the luxury of a full night’s sleep. Then I am ready to face my last agonizing hours alone. Taking a long last look at the campus stretching out from the computer lab window, I begin. I feel my time drawing near. Summoning all of my strength, I strike the Gateway PC’s keys and write these last few words: “Of all my college assignments, the type I dislike the most is the common English paper . . .”

Strong topic sentence with transitions and repeated key terms

Effective use of specifics.