

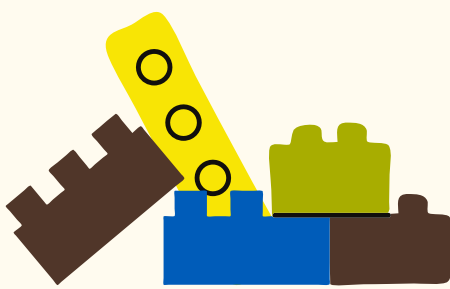


6 TIPS FOR

Excellent Writing

1 *Thesis Statement*

An essay develops a thesis statement that takes a stand on some problem and requires demonstration. The essay goes beyond mere recitation of information. Be able to state your thesis clearly in one or two sentences.

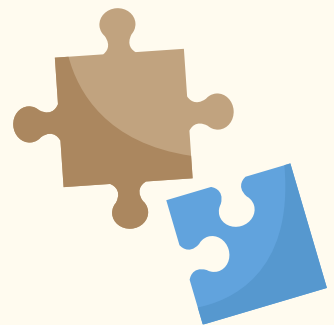


2 *Building Blocks*

Each paragraph constitutes a building block in the construction of the argument. The foundation of each building block is a topic sentence or “mini-thesis” that provides the focus of the paragraph.

3 *Argument Relevance*

Make sure each paragraph contains material that is relevant to the argument. The paragraphs should flow logically from one to the next, so the reader can follow the argument.



4 *Include Evidence*

The argument includes evidence from both primary and secondary sources. Evidence is documented through referencing/footnotes.

5 *Reasoned Argumentation*

While personal engagement in the subject enlivens writing and makes it interesting, the academic essay is not the place for emoting. Instead, an essay involves reasoned argumentation. Notice if your emotions have created blind spots in your reasoning.



6 *Proofread*

Proofread your own work. That is one of the most challenging, yet overlooked tasks in writing. Consider working with a partner and proofread each other's writing.
