**Explanatory Essay**

When writing an explanatory essay, you need an introductory paragraph, body paragraph(s), and a concluding paragraph. Within each paragraph, your writing needs to be clearly organized.

**Introductory Paragraph:**

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| Hook: | The hook is an attention-grabbing beginning. Start your paper with a general  statement about your topic that catches the reader’s attention, a relevant quotation,  question, fascinating fact, or definition. |
| Connect: | Create a bridge between your hook and your thesis with information the reader  needs to understand your topic. |
| Thesis: | Your thesis statement summarizes the content of your entire essay. It includes the  focus of each of your body paragraphs. |

You should not go into too much detail in your introduction—stick to central (main) ideas only. Save the details for your body paragraphs.

**Body Paragraph(s):**

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| Topic  Sentence: | Each body paragraph should have an effective topic sentence that lets the reader know what the paragraph will discuss. |
| Supporting Evidence: | Your body sentences should support your topic sentence, elaborate, and cite evidence about your topic. |
| Explanation: | You should explain how your cited evidence supports your topic sentence focus. It should connect your supporting evidence to your paragraph focus. |
| Conclusion/  Transition: | Each body paragraph should have a concluding sentence that either summarizes the focus of the body paragraph or transitions the reader to the next topic. |

**Concluding Paragraph:**

**Restate Thesis, Summarize – Recycle Only**

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| Your conclusion should only summarize your writing. Your conclusion should restate your thesis ideas. You should **NOT** introduce any new content, have any personal opinion, or go into too much detail in your conclusion. You can use the conclusion to connect the topic to the audience. |

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| **WORK CITED:**  Your work cited should by at the end of all of your writing. It should be titled, numbered, alphabetized, and list of all the resources you used to gather information **not just the sources that you quoted or paraphrased.** |