# THE BASIC ESSAY

FOCUS
NARROWS

## THE INTRODUCTION

GRAB THE READER'S ATTENTION
- + say something startling (statement, statistic)
- + refer to an event (historical, current)
- + state a controversy, contradiction, unusual opinion
- + ask a question
- + use a quotation, adage, proverb

ESTABLISH YOUR POINT (thesis statement)

If writing an essay exam, you may need to limit the introduction to stating your point.

TRANSITION

## THE BODY

TOPIC SENTENCE-one reason/idea/argument that supports the point (thesis)
- + details that explain or support the topic sentence
- + examples that explain the context or circumstances of the point made in the topic sentence
- + explain why details and examples support the topic sentence

EXPANDABLE!
* one or more paragraphs
- one topic per paragraph
- write as many paragraphs as you have strong arguments

* organize paragraphs to gain the greatest effect on the audience (remember that the first and/or the last point made often is the one most remembered).

TRANSITION

## THE CONCLUSION

SUM UP/POINT TO THE FUTURE
- + give specific suggestions/recommendations
- + state something memorable (something the audience should remember and why)
- + list benefits
- + state results
- + mention limits
- + state any resistance
- + echo key words from the intro and body
- + mention possible spinoffs
- + acknowledge possible future work

SCOPE
BROADENS

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