

Talking About Writing

Need-to-Know Terms



Talking About Writing

- Writing, as a discipline, has its own terminology and jargon which includes the following:

- Writing Process

- Draft

- Prewriting

- Invention

- Thesis Statement

- Introduction

- Body Paragraph

- Transitions

- Conclusion

- Revision

- Proofreading

- Citation

- Primary Sources

- Secondary Sources

Writing Process

- Writing as Process vs. Writing as Product
- Processes = the *ways* we write
- Products = the *things* we write
- Processes lead to Products

Drafts

- “Draft” = a completed version of a project
- Typically, subsequent “drafts” of written assignments do not add anything major to each new version
- Each draft represents efforts at refining an already completed project, NOT adding new sections of material

Prewriting / Invention

- Prewriting / Invention = all the activities a writer does before writing any draft of a written assignment
- These activities could include:
 - Brainstorming
 - Research
 - Outlining
 - Summarizing main ideas
 - Making a diagram or other schematic.

Thesis Statement

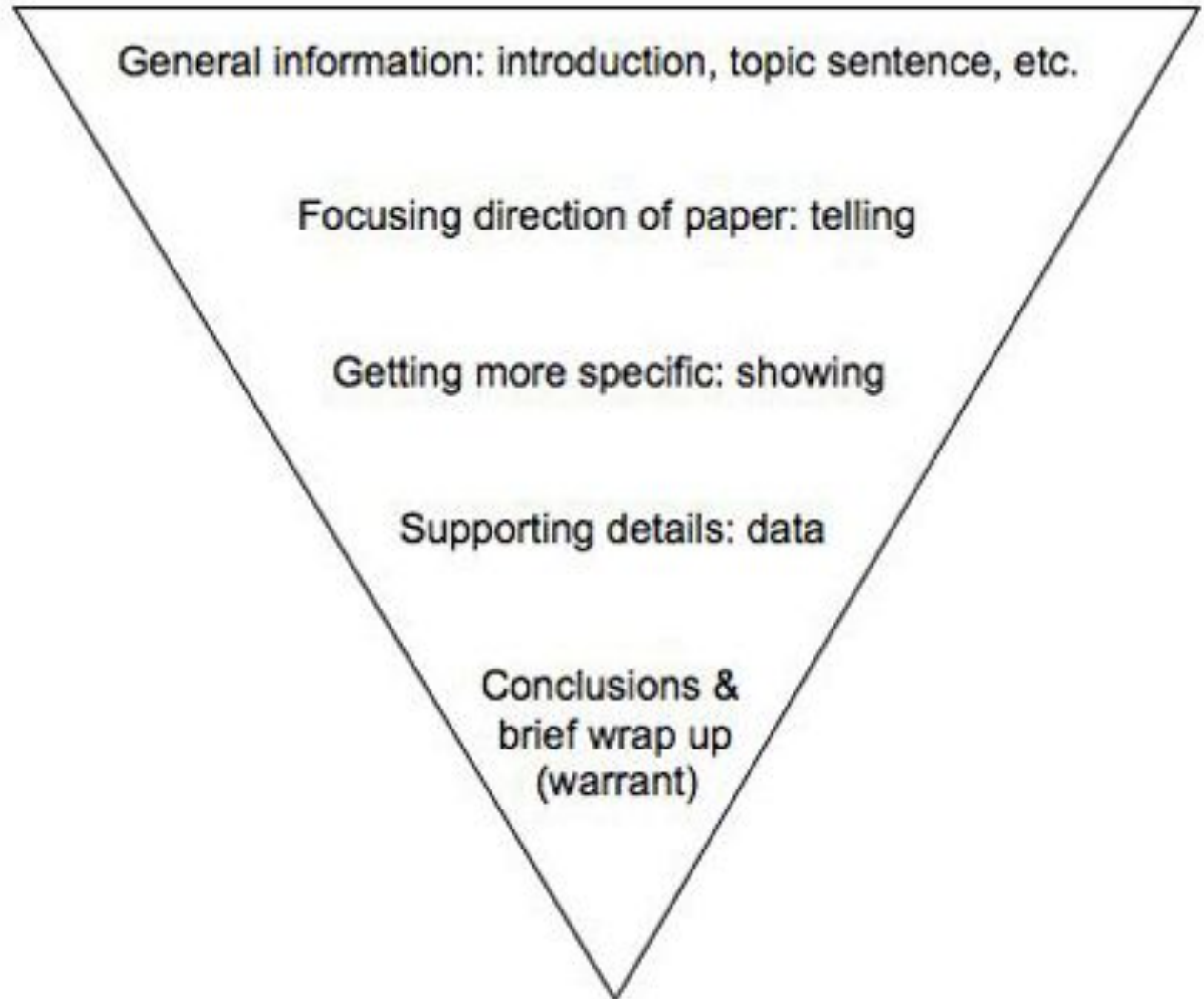
- Thesis Statement = The main idea or main point of a written assignment.
- It is specific
- It often appears at the end of the first paragraph of a paper
- It can be modified to reflect what actually ended up being discussed in the paper

Introductions

- “Introduction” = the broad beginning of a written assignment
- It should answer these questions:
 - What is this paper about?
 - Why am I reading it?
 - What do you want me to do?
- It should set the context for the paper
- It should state why the main idea is important
- A thesis statement is typically placed at the end of an introduction

Body Paragraphs

- “Body Paragraph” = paragraph between the Introduction and the Conclusion
- Each Body Paragraph typically follows the pattern here



Transitions

- “Transition” = words or phrases that connect ideas in one paragraph with ideas in the next
- Effective transitions use key phrases from a previous paragraph in the next paragraph
- Some common transitional devices:
 - furthermore, in addition, moreover
 - on the contrary, in contrast, meanwhile
 - however, nevertheless

Conclusions

- “Conclusion” = the end parts written assignments that wrap up what authors have been discussing in their papers
- Conclusions could
 - Restate the topic and its importance
 - Restate the thesis statement
 - Resolve opposing viewpoints
 - Include a call for action
 - Overview future research possibilities

Revision and Proofreading

- “Revision” = any beneficial change to a paper from one draft to another
- Generally, “revision” means larger changes with structure or content
- “Proofreading” = means only revising to correct spelling or grammatical errors

Citations

- “Citations” = the methods writers use to reference the sources they quote
- Modern Language Association (MLA): Purdue OWL:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- American Psychological Association (APA): Purdue OWL:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- Chicago Manual of Style (CMS): Purdue OWL:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>

Primary vs. Secondary Research

- “Primary Research” = any type of research you go out and collect yourself
- “Secondary Research” = every other kind of research

For More Information

For more OWL resources, see the following:

- [Essay Writing](#)
- [Prewriting \(Invention\)](#)
- [Creating a Thesis Statement](#)
- [Introductions, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusions for Argument Papers](#)
- [Introductions, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusions for Exploratory Papers](#)
- [Transitions and Transitional Devices](#)
- [Proofreading](#)
- [Paramedic Method](#)
- [Reverse Paramedic Method](#)
- [MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide](#)
- [APA Formatting and Style Guide](#)
- [Chicago Manual of Style](#)
- [Conducting Primary Research](#)

For More Information

Purdue Writing Lab Phone Number:
765-494-3723

Purdue OWL: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

The End

