**The Five-Paragraph Essay**

What is an essay? It is a multi-paragraph piece of writing that can be used to inform, persuade, or explain a topic. Essays are usually formal pieces of writing, depending on the subject.

Components of an essay:

**Title:**

-Tells you what the essay will be about

-Can grab a reader's attention

Ex. The Impact of a New McDonalds Restaurant vs. McDonalds

**Introduction:**

-Grab the reader's attention

-Topic is introduced

-Thesis statement

-Usually 1-2 sentences

-This statement summarizes the topic and the points you will be making in the rest of your essay.

-The thesis should reveal the stance or position that your essay takes, and what will be discussed in the body paragraphs

-Everything you write in your essay should relate to the thesis statement

Ex. "The life of a typical grade 7 student is characterized by time spent attending school, completing homework, and participating in extra-curricular activities."

vs.

"The life of a grade 7 student is busy."

The first example is a much stronger example of a thesis statement, because it clearly identifies the topic, and what will be discussed in each body paragraph in the essay. Both statements take a stance, but the second statement is too vague.

-Transition sentence

-This is a phrase that links one paragraph to the next, and is found at the end of a paragraph

-Transition phrases allow the essay to flow logically from one point to the next

-Ex. Next... Moreover... Therefore... Yet...

**Body Paragraphs**

-Topic sentence

-Supporting details/evidence

-If taking a fact directly from a website or a book, you must put the sentence in quotations

-After the quotation, you must include a reference, following this format: (Author's last name, year)

-If there is no author, put the name of the website: (Website name, year)

Ex. "Grade 7 is awesome." (Higgins, 2013).

"Canada is the second largest country in the world." (Wikipedia, 2014).

-Analysis of the evidence - why is it important, how does it relate to your thesis?

-Transition sentence

**Conclusion**

-Summarize the thesis statement and the points that you made in other words

-What is the significance of your topic, why is it important?

-No new information should be included in the conclusion!

**References:**

-List of where you got your information on a separate page

-Proper referencing format should be used

-If using a source like Wikipedia, at least two other reliable sources should be used