Academic Writing: Layering Your Writing

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Absent Professor Program
Five Paragraph Essay

First Paragraph: “Tell me what you are going to tell me.”
- Thesis, summary of main points, the “hook”

Second, Third, and Fourth Paragraph: “Tell me”
- Body, main points, detail

Fifth Paragraph: “Tell me what you told me.”
- Conclusion, restate thesis, reflect
Writing Workshop

Pick one of the following objects:
Descriptive Writing: Artist

Write in third person: It, the (object)

Use the five senses: Taste, touch, smell, see, and hear

This is the part that can be most easily forgotten.
- Pretend the reader is completely ignorant
- Ensure the reader is on a level playing field
Analytical Writing: Scientist

Search for provable facts: the truth!

Answer the questions:
- Where did it come from?
- What does it do?
- What is its purpose?

This is the foundation of your paper.
- Relevant research
- Statistics
- Be an expert on the subject you are writing about
Think in the abstract.

Consider your object as an emblem on a poster for social change or a “call to action”.

This is the most important and challenging portion of your paper.
- Higher order thinking
- Create new ideas
- Persuade the reader into believing your idea
Bloom’s Taxonomy

- Knowledge
- Comprehension
- Application
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation

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Narrative Writing: Voice

This is the final step.

Tie everything together:
- Thesis statement (creation and/or revision)
- Introduction and Conclusion
- Transitions
- Make sure your paper flows!

Clean up your paper: COPS
- Capitalization
- Organization
- Punctuation
- Spelling
Questions?
Bear CLAW Services

For additional information, visit the Bear CLAW website:
- bearclaw.missouristate.edu

For one-on-one assistance with the writing process, contact the writing center:
- writingcenter.missouristate.edu
- Schedule an appointment with a consultant
- User’s guide will assist you with making an appointment
- Assistance with higher order needs