

Structuring the Composition

WS# 1.4

Compositions are structured much like individual paragraphs. There are clear introductory and concluding elements. However, compositions are a series of paragraphs that attempt to communicate a main idea that cannot be sufficiently developed in one paragraph.

Introductory Paragraph

- ❖ Hook
- ❖ Introductory Material
- ❖ Thesis Statement

Concluding statements

Unlike an individual paragraph, the clinching statement of a composition paragraph should do one or more of the following:

- Restate main idea of paragraph
- Connect paragraph main idea with composition thesis
- Restate main idea of paragraph and transition into / setup next paragraph main idea

Supporting Paragraphs

- ❖ Topic Sentence
- ❖ Supporting Details
- ❖ Clincher Sentence

Composition Paragraphs

Like individual paragraphs, composition paragraphs should be organized in some way to support the main idea of the larger piece of writing.

Typical functions, or purposes, of these paragraphs are generally one of the following:

- explain or inform
- narrate a story / anecdote / analogy
- describe events, persons, activities
- define
- persuade
- transition from one subject to the next

Concluding Paragraph

- ❖ Restatement of thesis
- ❖ Review main ideas
- ❖ Provide closure – a final thought

Extending Your Ideas

The conclusion should make a lasting impression while providing a sense of completeness. The final thought(s) should extend from the points discussed in the body of your writing.