



ARMY UNIVERSITY
PRESS

***Introductions and
Conclusions***

Army University's Multi-Media Publishing Enterprise



Introductions: Ethos, Pathos, and Logos

“The more you know about your audience’s attitudes before you begin writing, the more convincing your prose, because you will make the best choices about content and organization”

(Jean Wyrick, *Steps to Writing Well*, 21)

Thesis Statements

A strong thesis provides the roadmap & elements, to orient and prepare the reader for what is to follow

- Should be a 'working thesis' until the final draft
- Give someone your thesis, ask them to describe what they will see in the paper
- Mine your writing for more clear & compelling thesis sentences

Body of evidence/ reasoning

- If you introduce a concept or idea,
 - Is it fully integrated into the paper?
- Does the reasoning and analysis support each topic sentence?
- Is there an aspect of the scope/focus that hasn't been considered?
- Do all the 'players' seem fully understood by the author?
- Where does the reasoning need to be expanded?
- Where does the reasoning seem to be tangential?

Conclusions

Conclusions connect the so-what of the paper back to the wider context

- Quick summary of paper;
- Call for future research
- Offer a solution/recommendation
- Provide an anecdote
- Proffer a question
 - Can be answered or just posed



Writing Exercise

- What is the goal, or intended effect of your paper on your audience?
- What type of conclusion sounds most useful, given your goal, topic, current working thesis, audience, etc?
- What do you feel is the biggest weakness of your project currently, or what is the biggest roadblock or weakness in your efforts to shape your draft into a final product?
- Write your working thesis.
 - Analyze & describe all the elements in your thesis

Other general suggestions for refining your paper

- **Reverse outline**
 - Use colors to mark the subclaims, evidence, analysis
- **Draw a map of the relationship between thesis & subclaims**
- **Go back to free-writing**
- **Ask the paper the following questions**
 - Can any of these paragraphs be cut?
 - Does the paper clearly situate itself in the larger conversation? Does it need to be more explicitly situated?
 - Does the audience have all the background info they need?
 - What is the strongest evidence? The weakest? Can I find stronger evidence or reasoning to support my thesis?
 - Can my topic sentences be re-written to be more clear and compelling?