**The Parts of the Analytic Paper**

**Introductory Paragraph**: The opening sentence of the paper should grab the reader’s

attention and set the tone for the paper. The rest of the paragraph should set the

historical context by defining key terms and providing a brief description of the time

period. The introductory paragraph should end with the thesis statement.

**Thesis**: The thesis statement is the foundation of a persuasive essay. It asserts the

author’s opinion that is supported throughout the body of the paper. Generating a thesis

is hard work. Some might choose to write the thesis statement after writing the body

paragraphs. A strong thesis statement is provable, well thought out, arguable, and

realistic**.** A thesis considers the proper scope: not too big and not too small.

**MEAL plan:** Body paragraphs should be written using the MEAL paragraph format.

This format will help you to write and think like a historian. Persuasive writing requires

both ample evidence and convincing analysis. Use the following habits of mind to guide

your body paragraph writing.

M**ain Idea:** What is the main idea of this paragraph? This main idea should be clearly

articulated in the topic sentence. Each main idea should support the paper’s thesis.

E**vidence:** What are the specific examples, quotations, and details that support your

main idea?

A**nalysis:** The analysis asks how your evidence supports your thesis and your main

idea. The analysis answers the question: “So what?” Analysis clearly explains the

significance of your evidence.

L**ink:** Wrap up the paragraph and either make a “Link” back to the thesis statement or

to the main idea statement.

**The Conclusion:** The conclusion should revisit the thesis and wrap up the paper’s

argument. A strong conclusion includes a connection to larger issues or themes and

makes clear the significance of the analysis.

**Examples of Linking words**

**These words are synonyms for “AND” and join two equal ideas.**

Furthermore once more

Moreover also

In addition in the next place

Likewise again

Besides similarly

For example for instance

**The following words are synonyms for “BUT” and show a contradiction or**

**Exception**

Then on the contrary

Still nevertheless

However in spite of that

Yet on the other hand

Although

**The following words imply cause/effect.**

Therefore as a result

Consequently in consequence

Thus so

Accordingly subsequently

As might be expected since

**Words used to express the passing of time.**

Later meanwhile

Soon shortly thereafter

Before long sometimes

Until since

After whenever

As while

Next finally

**Avoid using the words “things” and “really”**