ACADEMIC WRITING CENTRE HANDOUT

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- Purpose: provides context, sets scene for essay.
- •KEY (towards end of section): Thesis Statement
- Provides a roadmap for where the essay is going to go. Outlines main points without giving away your argument.
- E.G. You're writing an essay on why dogs are better than cats. Let's say your three main points are: dogs are friendlier than cats, fluffier than cats, and smarter than cats. Therefore your Thesis Statement could be: Dogs make better pets than cats because of their friendliness, fluffiness, and intelligence.

Main Point No. 1

- Main Point No.1 Topic Sentence
 - E.G. While cat owners may value their cats' independence, dog owners take pride in their pets' friendliness and argue that this makes a better household pet.
 - Body of the Essay: Made up of Main Points and Section Paragraphs. Think of it as a sandwich filling - the bread being the Introduction and Conclusion. Discuss your argument within each respective main point. A benefit of outlining your essay is you can group your research into big categories and use these to form your Main Points.

Main Point No. 2

- Main Point No. 2 Topic Sentence (KEY: link to Main Point No. 1)
 - E.G. Along with their amicable nature, canines usually have soft fur and enjoy being petted, often more so than cats.

Section Paragraphs

* Note: Any material cited needs to illustrate its relevance to your argument

Main Point

• Main Point No. 3 - Topic Sentence (link to Main Point No. 2)

• Section Paragraphs

No. 3

 While the Introduction introduces the idea and sets the stage, the Conclusion gives an overall view of the argument and wraps up any loose strands.

Conclusion

• Restate (in different words/terminology) your main points and utilize your argument to provide an overall view of what you've written within the body of the essay.