

# Essay Cheat Sheet

Intro paragraph should go from your broadest statement to your most specific (Thesis).

Always refer back to your Thesis

## Essay Don'ts

1. Don't use cliches
2. Don't use contractions
3. Don't say "I think" or "I feel"
4. Don't use complex words just to sound smart
5. Don't use pronouns with confusing antecedents
6. Don't NOT edit
7. Don't summarize too much
8. Don't plagiarize
9. Don't write about a topic you don't understand
10. Don't forget to answer the question

Your thesis must be an arguable point. If I can't argue against it, it's not a thesis!

Quotes are meant to be evidence for your argument. Don't pick out random quotes just to fill a requirement. Be thoughtful with your selection.

Don't include anything that isn't answering your question. If it is not one of your arguable points or evidence to prove it, cut it!

Make your writing as clear as possible--don't make your reader guess at what you're talking about.

No generalizations ever!

Your topic sentence is like the "thesis" of that paragraph. Everything in your paragraph should refer back to your topic sentence.  
  
Your concluding sentence should be a segway into your next paragraph while still wrapping up the current paragraph.

Wikipedia is not a real source.

- MLA Format:**
- Your Name
  - Teacher's Name
  - Class
  - Date
  - (Always double spaced, Times New Roman, point 12, last name and page number in right corner)

When in doubt, cite!

REMEMBER, THIS IS YOUR PAPER. OWN IT! NO ONE KNOWS YOUR IDEAS BETTER THAN YOU.