

# Academic Writing: Recipes for Success

## Recipe: Introductory Paragraph

1. Hook—Grab your reader’s attention with an engaging story or shocking statistic about your topic.
2. Background—Give enough background information about the topic so that your reader can understand the ideas in the paper.
3. Thesis—Give a strong statement in which you briefly state your case. In two sentences:
  - Take a stand on the topic.
  - Give a roadmap for your argument.

## Recipe: Basic, Well-organized Paragraph

1. Topic sentence—Introduce the concept you’re discussing.
  2. Evidence—Use statistics, quotations, survey results, or other facts.
  3. Analysis—Discuss the *meaning* of the evidence in your own words.
  4. Concluding sentence—Wrap up the paragraph by telling why the subject is important.
- Alternate evidence and analysis as needed.

## Recipe: Concluding Paragraph

1. Big Idea Reminder—Help the reader recall your Big Idea, or thesis.
2. Supporting Detail Reminder—Summarize the main points that helped to prove your big idea.
3. So What?—Finish your paper by summarizing why the topic is important to your reading audience. (Answer the question: *Why should we care?*)



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