COMPONENTS OF AN ESSAY AND PARAGRAPHS

TLC/College of the Canyons
A WELL-ORGANIZED ESSAY CONSIGTS OF:

1. **Title** that identifies the main message of the essay.

2. **Introduction** - one opening paragraph that attracts attention to the essay and introduces a thesis statement.

3. **Two or three body paragraphs** that develop and support the thesis statement.

4. **Conclusion** - one concluding paragraph that summarizes the essay’s key points, offers solutions, or predicts future developments.
This sentence should be placed at the last sentence of the introduction.

This sentence consists of the **unifying element** and two or three **subtopics**.

**The unifying element** contains a subject and an opinion on it. **Subtopics** show the development of the unifying element in paragraphs.

Examples of thesis statements:

• Over the years, advertising has grown in popularity as a college major and as a career.

• Having a goal in mind and using student services are important factors that contribute to success in college.
A WELL-ORGANIZED BODY PARAGRAPHS CONSISTS OF:

1. **Topic Sentence** that includes the unifying element and one subtopic, derived from the thesis statement.

2. **Supporting Ideas** that back up the topic sentence.

3. **Concrete Evidence** that consists of *textual* evidence (direct and indirect quotes) and *personal* evidence (experiences, examples, observations).

4. **Concluding Sentence** that sums up the body paragraph.

5. **Transitions** help the writer to pass from one idea to another.
**Thesis Statement:** A good annotation of a text consists of underlying main points, using symbols for details, and writing marginal comments.

**1st body paragraph** starts with the topic sentence:

*First, a good annotation of a text consists of underlying major points.*

**2nd body paragraph** starts with the topic sentence:

*In addition, a good annotation includes symbols to mark up details.*

**3rd body paragraph** starts with the topic sentence:

*Finally, an efficient annotation involves writing comments in the margins.*
GENERAL RULES FOR CREATING A BODY PARAGRAPH:

1. Each of your body paragraphs should develop one supporting point, in the same order you listed the criteria in your thesis.

2. Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence (transition + unifying element + one supporting point).

3. Then support the topic sentence with plenty of detailed textual and personal evidence.

4. In each paragraph, analyze and organize your evidence into several clear sections.

5. In the end of each body paragraph, add a sentence of closure to wrap up the major points of the discussion.
1. Transitions to pass from paragraph to paragraph:
   *First, second, third, Firstly, secondly, finally*

2. Transitions to pass from one major point to another within paragraphs:
   *For one thing, first of all, next, then, also, in addition, besides, furthermore, subsequently, eventually, in the same vein, likewise, by the same token, again, moreover.*

Transitions to pass from one specific example/detail to another:
*For example, for instance, thus, as an illustration, for an illustration, to illustrate, namely, specifically, in response, as a result.*

Transitions that indicate summary or restatement:
*In short, in brief, in summary, in conclusion, on the whole, hence, to sum up, to reiterate, again, once again.*