Talking About Writing

Need-to-Know Terms

Talking About Writing

- Writing, as a discipline, has its own terminology and jargon which includes the following:

–Writing Process

–Draft

–Prewriting

–Invention

–Thesis Statement

–Introduction

–Body Paragraph

–Transitions

–Conclusion

–Revision

–Proofreading

–Citation

–Primary Sources

–Secondary Sources

Writing Process

- Writing as Process vs. Writing as Product

- Processes = the **_ways_** we write

- Products = the **_things_** we write

- Processes lead to Products

Drafts

- "Draft" = a completed version of a project

- Typically, subsequent "drafts" of written assignments do not add anything major to each new version

- Each draft represents efforts at refining an already completed project, NOT adding new sections of material

Prewriting / Invention

- Prewriting / Invention = all the activities a writer does before writing any draft of a written assignment

- These activities could include:
  - Brainstorming
  - Research
  - Outlining
  - Summarizing main ideas
  - Making a diagram or other schematic.
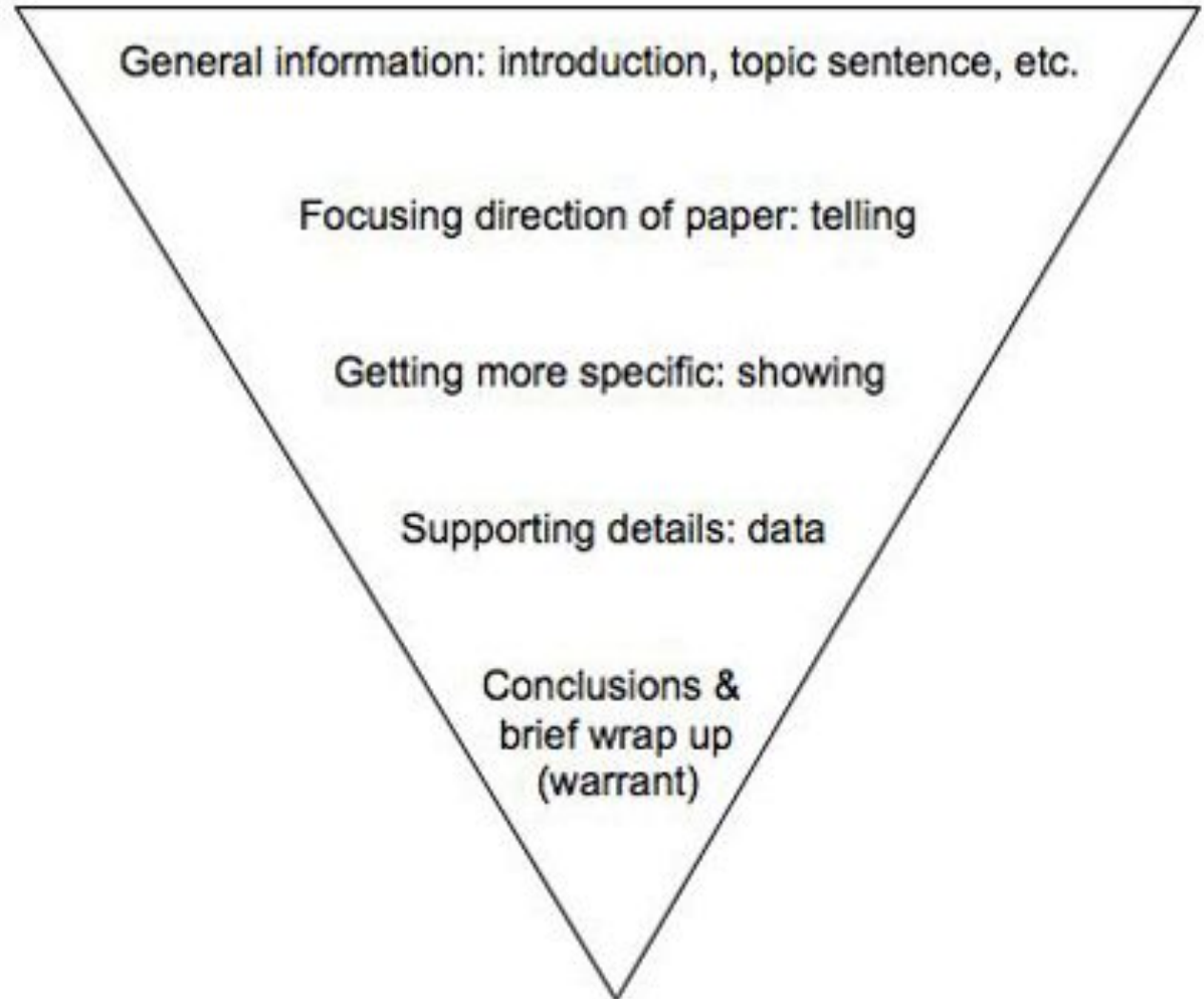
Thesis Statement

- Thesis Statement = The main idea or main point of a written assignment.

- It is specific

- It often appears at the end of the first paragraph of a paper

- It can be modified to reflect what actually ended up being discussed in the paper

Introductions

- "Introduction" = the broad beginning of a written assignment
- It should answer these questions:
  - What is this paper about?
  - Why am I reading it?
  - What do you want me to do?
- It should set the context for the paper
- It should state why the main idea is important
- A thesis statement is typically placed at the end of an introduction

Body Paragraphs

- "Body Paragraph" = paragraph between the Introduction and the Conclusion
- Each Body Paragraph typically follows the pattern here

General information: introduction, topic sentence, etc.

Focusing direction of paper: telling

Getting more specific: showing

Supporting details: data

Conclusions & brief wrap up (warrant)

Transitions

- "Transition" = words or phrases that connect ideas in one paragraph with ideas in the next

- Effective transitions use key phrases from a previous paragraph in the next paragraph

- Some common transitional devices:
  - furthermore, in addition, moreover
  - on the contrary, in contrast, meanwhile
  - however, nevertheless

Conclusions

- "Conclusion" = the end parts written assignments that wrap up what authors have been discussing in their papers
- Conclusions could
  - Restate the topic and its importance
  - Restate the thesis statement
  - Resolve opposing viewpoints
  - Include a call for action
  - Overview future research possibilities

Revision and Proofreading

- "Revision" = any beneficial change to a paper from one draft to another

- Generally, "revision" means larger changes with structure or content

- "Proofreading" = means only revising to correct spelling or grammatical errors

Citations

- "Citations" = the methods writers use to reference the sources they quote

- Modern Language Association (MLA): Purdue OWL:
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

- American Psychological Association (APA): Purdue OWL:
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

- Chicago Manual of Style (CMS): Purdue OWL:
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/

Primary vs. Secondary Research

- "Primary Research" = any type of research you go out and collect yourself

- "Secondary Research" = every other kind of research

For More Information

For more OWL resources, see the following:

- Essay Writing
- Prewriting (Invention)
- Creating a Thesis Statement
- Introductions, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusions for Argument Papers
- Introductions, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusions for Exploratory Papers
- Transitions and Transitional Devices
- Proofreading
- Paramedic Method
- Reverse Paramedic Method
- MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide
- APA Formatting and Style Guide
- Chicago Manual of Style
- Conducting Primary Research

For More Information

Purdue Writing Lab Phone Number:
  765-494-3723

Purdue OWL:
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/

The End