

Prescription for a Perceptive Paper

Opening Paragraph

- Begin with a POWERFUL opening statement or “hook”

Allusion—reference to mythology, history, the Bible, etc.

Vivid Description—based on sensory imagery

Direct Quotation—from the text or another famous quote

Anecdote or narrative—personal story

Short, Poignant, or Exclamatory remark

Rhetorical Question

- Transition to a restatement of the prompt and thesis statement

Body Paragraphs -- give them some PEP!

- Each paragraph should include the following (in any order)

POINT—topic sentence, what is this paragraph about?

EVIDENCE—direct quote or reference to the text itself which **validates/proves the point**

PERSUASION—analysis of the text in order to determine the author’s purpose and how you “figured it out”

- Transition smoothly between paragraphs. Try using the following words:

For continuing a common line of reasoning:

consequently	in addition	also
clearly, then	moreover	pursuing this further
furthermore	because	in the light of the... it is easy
additionally	besides that	to see that
and	in the same way	
	following this further	

To change the line of reasoning (contrast):

however	but	nevertheless
on the other hand	yet	on the contrary

For opening a paragraph initially or for general use:

admittedly	obviously	generally speaking
assuredly	of course	in general
certainly	to be sure	at this level
granted	true	in this situation
no doubt	undoubtedly	
nobody denies	unquestionably	

For the final points of a paragraph or essay:

finally
lastly

Transitional chains, to use in separating sections of a paragraph which is arranged chronologically:

first... second... third...
generally... furthermore... finally
in the first place... also... lastly
in the first place... pursuing this further... finally
to be sure... additionally... lastly
in the first place... just in the same way... finally
basically... similarly... as well

To signal conclusion:

therefore	in final analysis	consideration
thus	in conclusion	indeed
hence	in final	

To restate a point within a paragraph in another or more exacting way:

in other words	point in fact	specifically
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Sequence or time

after	before long	meanwhile
afterwards	finally	next
as soon as	first...second...third	soon
at first	in the first place	then
at last	in the meantime	
before	later	

Concluding Paragraph—Pièce de résistance

- Restatement of the thesis PACKED with a Punch
- If possible, refer back to the opening “hook” bringing the paper to a logical conclusion