***Body Paragraph Structure***

**1. Topic Sentence**

* **Definition**: The topic sentence indicates the subject of the paragraph. It acts as a one-sentence introduction or summary of the paragraph to follow.
* **Example**: "Bird imagery is another key aspect of Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* which blurs clear distinctions between femininity and masculinity in the film."

This sentence tells us exactly what the paragraph will discuss and sets up the argument for that section of your essay.

**2. Supporting Sentences**

* **Purpose**: These sentences provide the details and evidence needed to support the topic sentence. This is where you explain and substantiate your point.
* **Process**:
  + Introduce evidence: This could be a quotation, data, or an observation.
  + Summarize the evidence: Put it into your own words.
  + Analyze the evidence: Explain how it supports your argument.
  + Every piece of evidence must be followed by analysis in your own words indicating its relevance.
* **Example**:

Topic Sentence: "Unusual metaphors are a characteristic feature of Melissa Broder's work, noticeably in poems like 'Astral Locket' and 'Sky Mall.'"

Supporting Sentences: "In 'Astral Locket,' the speaker refers to men as 'gifts' one must 'return' to 'make room' for others. This 'light for blood exchange' metaphor combines abstract and concrete elements in an unusual way."

**3. Concluding Sentence**

* **Function**: The concluding sentence wraps up the paragraph by summarizing the main point and linking it back to the topic sentence.
* **Example**: "These metaphors disrupt the reader's understanding of basic senses and experiences, like those of matter and time, and are unique to Broder's poetic voice."

**4. Transition Sentence**

* **Role**: Transitions help guide the reader from one paragraph to the next, maintaining a smooth flow of ideas.
* **Example**: "Having explored Broder's unique use of metaphors, we can now turn to her thematic exploration of existential dread."

***The Sandwich Model***

Think of each body paragraph as a sandwich:

* **Top Slice**: Topic Sentence (argumentative)
* **Filling**: Supporting Sentences (descriptive and analytical)
* **Bottom Slice**: Concluding Sentence (argumentative)

This structure ensures your paragraph is cohesive and logically sound.

***Conclusions***

Just like your introductions, your conclusions have essential functions:

* Re-state your central argument (thesis statement) – Make sure it is paraphrased
* Summarize your essay – Just the main points
* Explain the significance of your findings
* Point to the wider implications of your work

**Structure (T-S-S)**:

1. **Thesis Summary**: Paraphrase your thesis argument.
2. **Summary**: Explain how you proved your thesis.
3. **Super So-What Factor**: Discuss the broader implications or future research directions.
4. **Example Conclusion**

"While Mark Ruffalo's wooden acting is frustrating, the fast-paced battle scenes and stunning climax make *Transformers 9* a compelling summer movie. Ruffalo's dull expression in the engagement scene is a weak point, but the epic battle in Midtown New York and the duel between Megatron and Optimus Prime are highlights. This shift from human stories to machine battles raises questions about the focus of Hollywood action films and the triumph of machines over humans both on and off screen."

**Dos and Don'ts of Essay Writing**

**Dos**

1. **Do Plan Your Essay**
   * Outline your main points and structure before you start writing.
2. **Do Write a Clear Thesis Statement**
   * Make sure your thesis statement is specific and arguable.
3. **Do Use Topic Sentences**
   * Start each paragraph with a clear topic sentence that outlines the main idea.
4. **Do Support Your Arguments**
   * Use evidence, such as quotes, statistics, and examples, to back up your points.
5. **Do Analyze Your Evidence**
   * Explain how your evidence supports your thesis and main arguments.
6. **Do Use Transitions**
   * Use transitional words and phrases to link your paragraphs and ideas smoothly.
7. **Do Write Clear and Concise Sentences**
   * Avoid overly complex sentences that may confuse the reader.
8. **Do Proofread and Edit**
   * Check for grammatical errors, typos, and ensure your essay flows well.
9. **Do Follow the Required Format**
   * Adhere to the specified citation style and formatting guidelines. Every assignment in this course must follow MLA formatting guidelines.
10. **Do Conclude Effectively**
    * Summarize your main points, restate your thesis in a new way, and explain the significance of your findings.

**Don'ts**

1. **Don't Plagiarize**
   * Always cite your sources and give credit where it’s due.
2. **Don't Use Informal Language**
   * Avoid slang, contractions, and overly casual language.
3. **Don't Include Irrelevant Information**
   * Stay focused on your thesis and main arguments.
4. **Don't Start Writing Without an Outline**
   * Writing without a plan can lead to a disorganized essay.
5. **Don't Use Vague or Weak Thesis Statements**
   * Ensure your thesis is specific and provides a clear direction for your essay.
6. **Don't Overuse Quotes**
   * Use quotes sparingly and make sure to analyze them rather than letting them speak for themselves.
7. **Don't Ignore the Conclusion**
   * Failing to properly conclude can leave your essay feeling incomplete.
8. **Don't Forget to Edit**
   * Skipping the editing process can result in errors and weaken your argument.
9. **Don't Be Repetitive**
   * Avoid repeating the same points or phrases. Be concise and varied in your language.
10. **Don't Stray from the Essay Prompt**
    * Ensure you are addressing the question or topic as assigned.