**ENG 2PI Common Essay Mistakes**

**(aka. Common “Series of Paragraph” Errors on the Literacy Test)**

1. **Clearly state your thesis**

While it’s good to show that you’re aware of both sides of the argument in your introductory paragraph, your **thesis** needs to clearly state which stance you take. Don’t be a fence-sitter, and remain undecided.

Which is the more clear argument for the topic, what is the best fruit?

Thesis statements:

“Apples are delicious, and there are a lot of other healthy and yummy fruits like oranges or bananas”

 Versus

“Apples are the best fruit because they are delicious and nutritious”

1. **Structure your argument properly**

Know the proper way to organize your [introductory and concluding paragraphs](http://mrbignell.weebly.com/uploads/5/5/7/8/5578009/introductory__conclusion_paragraph.doc), as well as your body paragraphs. Use transition words, and have multiple points in each body paragraph for full marks.

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| **Introductory Paragraph** | **Body Paragraph** | **Concluding Paragraph** |
| Macintosh HD:Users:chrisbignell:Desktop:Intro P.jpg* Hook the reader with a fact about the topic
* Introduce the argument
* State your thesis *formally*
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| **Topic Sentence** |
| **Point** | **Proof** | **Discussion** |
| **Point 2** | **Proof 2** | **Disc 2** |
| **Point 3** | **Proof 3** | **Disc 3** |
| **Concluding Sentence** |

* Make sure you have all the parts
* Be concise
* Use a separate sentence for each part to help distinguish between your point and proof
 | Conclusion* Restate your thesis
* Draw conclusions from your argument
* End with a broad statement
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1. **Provide specific examples**

Stating “apples are yummy” without providing proof doesn’t cut it. You need to refer to **specific examples**.

For example:

**Point**: Apples are found in lots of desserts.

**Proof**: Examples include, apple crisp, apple blossom, apple pie, apple sauce.

**Comment**: Apples are so common in desserts because the majority of people find them delicious.

1. **Proofread for mechanical and grammatical errors**

To be marked, your writing must:

* Be legible
	+ Take your time and write clearly
	+ Clearly indicate paragraph breaks by **indenting** your paragraphs
* Make sense
	+ When you are finished, review your work by reading it in your head. If you think anything is unclear at this point, then fix it
	+ Watch out for homonyms, and other tricky words (ie. they’re, there, and their)