

Contents of a *Great 3+Paragraph In-Class Essay*

-Mr. Kerr

I. Intro:

- a. context statement, often maybe a definition
- b. thesis statement

II. Body: (replicate as needed and as time permits)

- a. topic sentence in which you state the order of the 3-4 main points/topics.
- b. 2-3 sentences discussing 1st topic and giving specific evidence
- c. 2-3 sentences discussing 2nd topic and giving specific evidence
- d. 2-3 sentences discussing 3rd topic and giving specific evidence
- e. 2-3 sentences discussing 4th topic and giving specific evidence
- f. tie together your body paragraph and connect the 3-4 points back to the thesis statement. Make sure the thesis (main argument) is obvious and running throughout this paper

III. Conclusion:

- a. summary statement for essay, restating thesis.
- b. Concluding idea for why this topic is important...so what???

*****Hints:**

The key to a great in-class essay is in the body paragraph(s). The body paragraph(s) should be 85% of the essay. You are trying to demonstrate your detailed knowledge of the topic. The more specific the evidence the better. Second in importance is your ability to connect your body paragraph to a solid thesis that structures and runs throughout the essay. Finally, for an in-class essay only, your grammar and spelling should be the last aspect of your essay that you are focussing on. As long as your paper is legible and sensible, you will not be docked for spelling or small grammatical errors. **FOCUS ON THE CONTENT FIRST, STYLE LAST!**

In your preparation for this type of test, it is best to write a detailed outline. If you write the entire essay out and try to memorize it you will spend the class period trying to remember the exact words and phrases you wanted to write. An outline keeps your focus where it should be- on the major components of the content. Try to be able to explain your essay to someone who is holding your outline. Once you can talk it out, you will be able to write it out in-class.