



The Kerrigan Method

(Also known as "Writing to the Point")

Here are the basic six steps, in plain English, to writing a five-paragraph essay:

1. Write a short, simple declarative sentence that makes one statement.
(this is the **THESIS** of your paper, what you want to prove)
2. Write three sentences about the sentence in Step 1.
(these are your topic sentences for each paragraph)
3. Write four or five sentences about each of the three sentences in Step 2.
(these are your "meat", your details which back up your topic sentence)
4. Make the material in the four or five sentences in Step 3 as specific as possible.
(this is where you add your color, your adjectives)
5. In the first sentence of each new paragraph, insert a clear reference to the idea of the preceding paragraph.
(these are your transitions)
6. Make sure every sentence in your theme is connected with and makes a clear reference to the preceding sentence.
(this is about flow, style, sense, transitions between sentences)

Shortened Rules of *Writing to the Point*

1. Write a short, simple declarative sentence that makes one statement.
2. Write three sentences about the sentence in Step 1.
3. Write four or five sentences about each of the three sentences in Step 2.
4. Make the material in the four or five sentences in Step 3 as specific as possible.
5. In the first sentence of each new paragraph, insert a clear reference to the idea of the preceding paragraph.
6. Make sure every sentence in your theme is connected with and makes a clear reference to the preceding sentence.

