**Organization Format of an Essay**

**Quick Overview**

**Introduction Paragraph:**

* Hook
* Background Sentences
* Thesis

**Body Paragraphs (1 – 100)**

* Topic Sentence
* Set-Up
* Specific Example
* Conclusion/Example/Analysis

**Conclusion**

* Re-State Thesis
* Summarize (1 sentence PER Body paragraph – main idea)
* Kicker

**Paragraph 1: Introduction Paragraph**

**Hook: (1 Sentence that brings the reader into your paper).**

*\*\* This is usually a quote (cite your source) or a short anecdote (story).*

**Example:** In 2016 Actor Bill Murray won the Mark Twain prize for his work as a slapstick comedian that often borders on genius and continues to inspire film viewers over the decades.

**Background Information (3-4 sentences that provide background information for the thesis)**

*\*\* These sentences give the reader just enough information to care about the rest of the paper and get them caught up with the need to know points WITHOUT giving away the main points of the paper)*

**Example:** Although Bill Murray is primarily known for his roles in hit films, he has had a diverse range of performance jobs throughout his life. He began working in radio on the *National Lampoon Hour* and then transitioned into stage work in off-Broadway shows. In 1976, he landed a position on the television show *Saturday Night Live* which catapulted his career. He began working in film after *Saturday Night Live* and has been working in the industry ever since. His 2003 performance in *Lost in Translation* won him an Oscar nomination for best actor (Biography.Com).

*\*\*Take a look! I paraphrased (in my own words) information from the website Biography.Com. See how I cited my source at the end and gave them credit! So easy!*

**Thesis:** **(1-2 sentences which clearly summarize what your paper is all about).**

**Example:** Bill Murray is one of the most influential and popular actors of the last 40 years because his movies have generated millions of dollars in the box office and he has consistently had work both in film and television during these years.

**Paragraphs 2- 3: Body Paragraphs**

*\*\*If your paper is longer than 5 paragraph, you can use this organizational pattern for as many paragraphs as needed.*

**Topic Sentence**

*\*\*This is the main idea of this paragraph AND a connection to the thesis.*

**Example:** Bill Murray is one of the greatest actors of this generation because his movies bring in millions of dollars.

**Set-Up** (2-4 sentences that give background about your next specific example)

*\*\*This should be mostly in your own words and provide enough information for your reader to help them understand your specific example.*

**Example:** Bill Murray is a well-known actor not only in America but around the world. He has been in television and movies for 40 years. According to IMDB, Murray has been in at least 59 movies and many of them have been top grossing.

**Specific Example**: This is a direct quote or very specific example (ex: short story about topic).

*\*\* You need to cite your source for the specific example.*

**Example:** According to website GoBankingRates, “Since Murray introduced himself to the world in the 1976 season of “Saturday Night Live,” his brand of humor — somehow dry, misanthropic and affable all at once — has not only left a permanent stamp on pop culture, but birthed an extremely lucrative career, generating Murray an estimated net worth c”.

\*\*In this example, I cited more source at the beginning of the direct quote by introducing the source.

\*\* You can also cite it at the end of the direct quote. See example below. It is good to mix it up and do different styles of citations.

**Explain Sentence (**1-2 sentences that explain how that example shows/proves your thesis):

*\*\*One way to begin this sentence would be “This example proves……because……”*

**Example:** This example proves that Bill Murray is a genius because his movies have been making people laugh for decades and continue to make people laugh today.

**Final Paragraph: Conclusion Paragraph**

**Restate Thesis**

**Example:** The actor, director, and philanthropist Bill Murray is one of this generation’s most beloved actors.

**Summarize Sentences**

**Example:** Bill Murray has made over 59 movies that have done well at the box office and as a result he has an estimated net worth to $140 million which proves that he is a popular actor.

**Kicker/Final Sentence**

**Example:** Those who have seen Murray continue to keep making movies, know that he has had some good movies and some bad; however, he just keeps going and doing the work he loves to do. In his own words, he says "I made a lot of mistakes and realized I had to let them go. Don't think about your errors or failures otherwise you'll never do a thing (Inc.Com)."

*\*\*Look! I cited my source again. Pay attention to how short it is and how it is punctuated!*

**Works Cited Page**

*\*\*This page literally took me 3 minutes to make by using EasyBib.Com. See my website for step-by-step tips on how to use EasyBib.Com*

“Bill Murray.” Biography.com, A&E Networks Television, 19 Apr. 2018,

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