

TEN STEPS TO A BETTER PAPER

1. Understand the topic!
2. Formulate an opinion on that topic.
3. Formulate a thesis, and a thesis statement.
4. Make a rough outline.
5. Plot your evidence--plug it into your outline.
6. Review all of the above:
 - A) Does my thesis fit the topic?
 - B) Is my thesis really what I want to argue?
 - C) Is my outline clear and logical--does it progress from point to point?
 - D) Are all of my points necessary and relevant?
 - E) Do I have enough evidence to demonstrate my thesis?
 - F) Does my outline lead to my conclusion?
 - G) Does my conclusion agree with my thesis?
7. Begin to write.
8. Once you have completed a rough draft, read it aloud. Does it "sound" right?
9. Read the paper with the outline next to it--have you made all of the points that you intended?
10. Read the paper again, checking the grammar, logic, and flow of:
 - A) Each sentence.
 - B) Each paragraph--does each paragraph stand as a unit? Does each paragraph have a "micro thesis"?
 - C) Is there a smooth transition between each paragraph?