Academic Writing 101

presented by the Writing Center
What does an A paper look like?

● An informative **introduction** with a clear **thesis**
● Well structured **body paragraphs**
  ○ Solid textual evidence a.k.a. **valid quotes**
  ○ Argument with a clear **logic**
● A moment of reflection and closure 😊
Introduction -- The Abstract of the Paper

The Ultimate Check-list: My intro should include...

- overview/context information about what I’m writing

Political Expression through Art in Battleship Potemkin

In his widely celebrated movie Battleship Potemkin (1925), Sergei Eisenstein depicts the story where the crew of the battleship Potemkin rebel against their commanders, enlightening the hope for revolution against the tsar’s regime. With its delicate shots and editing, the movie’s expression is undoubtedly political. By making a strong distinction between the people of different statuses, the movie, precisely through art, captures the ruler’s cruelty and the people’s suffering. Ingeniously, Eisenstein introduces the conflict between group homogeneity and individuality, leaving his mark in both the history of film and politics.
Introduction

The Ultimate Check-list: My intro includes...

- overview/context information about what I’m writing
- explanation for how I develop my thesis/question
- A THESIS

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The Mean of Pleasure in Aristotle Ethics

Aristotle has pointed out in *Nicomachean Ethics* to argue that pleasure, though may take people to a completely wrong path, is still a necessary element of nobleness. It has so many different aspects by varied cases that people are often confused with. Then, in his points of view, how can we identify pleasure is appropriate or not when it comes to a specific circumstance?
Body Paragraphs

The Ultimate Check-list:

- A topic sentence
- One or two insightful quote(s)
  - What does this quote say
  - What do I think of it
- How does it relate to my thesis?
For Turkle, the problem is about not only how we view the external matter, but also how we view others and our relationship with them. As Heidegger warns people to not mistaken “the part” for “the whole,” Turkle worries that people will forget about the significance of real human interaction once they are used to this simplified mode of connection. She suggests that “human relationships are rich, messy, and demanding” and “we have learned the habit of cleaning them up with technology” (Turlke “The Flight From Conversation”). As she points out, the current technology, as the media, only provides a form of simulation in which it amplifies the benefits of technology, such as speed and efficiency, but fails to replicate the subtleness of human interaction. As it filters out the “messiness,” the “richness” is lost, too. “It will begin with our seeing the new life ‘as if’ life and then deciding that ‘as if’ life may be life enough.” (Turlke Alone Together 54). It is apparently dangerous to settle with this reduced form of interaction and just like Enframing, we would lost our ability to see and appreciate the multifaceted nature of human relationship.
Tong Su argues in *Monday Sucks* that “Monday is a joke” (Su 1).

In her book, Su explicitly addresses that “Mondays are the worst” and “[nobody] likes Mondays” (Su 2,5).
Tips for MLA style block quotes:
● If a quote is longer than 4 lines it should be made into a block quote
● try not to use them in short essays
● (some profs prefer) 10pt instead of 12pt and single-spaced
● no quotation marks
● indent the entire quote using the “tab” key
● citation outside the period of the quote

In her book Tong writes:

Monday is a myth. My Sundays are followed by Tuesdays. Monday is a myth. My Sundays are followed by Tuesdays. Monday is a myth. My Sundays are followed by Tuesdays. Monday is a myth. My Sundays are followed by Tuesdays. Monday is a myth. My Sundays are followed by Tuesdays. Monday is a myth. My Sundays are followed by Tuesdays. Monday is a myth. My Sundays are followed by Tuesdays. (Su 7)
Conclusion

The Ultimate Check-list:

- Review my argument
- Restate the thesis
- Touch on the “so what” question

NOW LET'S WRAP IT ALL UP
Other Resources

- MLA style guidelines / Sample paper
  - https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/13/
- Chicago Manuel of Style (CMS) sample paper
  - https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/11/
- Grammar checker
  - www.grammarly.com