Structure:

Tips for starting on an assignment:
- Re-read the assignment and essay prompts before you start to keep those in your thoughts while writing.
- Next, re-read the texts that you are working with while gathering quotes. I often find that having a list of relevant quotes down on paper is the best way to start writing. Additionally, I find that writing down questions I have about the text(s) as well as connections I have made between these texts provides a good place for me to start thinking critically and developing an argument.
- Once you feel that you have a good understanding of the texts that you are working with, it’s time to move from posing these questions to trying to answer one!

- Writing a Thesis statement:
  - You can start with a working thesis and perfect it after you finish your essay and solidify your argument.
  - A good thesis statement is clear, concise and poses a question that can be argued in essay length.
  - A vague thesis would involve an argument that is self-evident, such as “Aristotle in his ‘Nicomachean Ethics’ talks about ethical theories,” or poses a question without any movement towards answering the question. “I wonder if Aristotle talks about theories of the soul in Nicomachean Ethics?” would also be an example of a bad thesis statement.

- Writing an introduction paragraph:
  - An introduction functions as an abstract of your paper, giving both the thesis statement at the end, as well as a conceptual overview of the topic you are about to address.
  - This is the place in which you can introduce the author, concept or text that you are working on.

- Structuring topic sentences:
  - Topic sentences should function as the organizational backbone of your essay, both tying back to your thesis statement and furthering your argument with evidence and analysis of the text.
  - A good topic sentence introduces the smaller argument that you will make in an individual paragraph.

- Body paragraphs and in text citations:
  - A good body paragraph will focus closely to the smaller argument made in your topic sentence for that paragraph.
  - It will also use textual evidence to develop upon and defend this argument, ideally with one or more citations per paragraph.
  - A quote should relate to your thesis, and you should clearly analyze and explain the quote’s relevance to the argument made.
Citation:
MLA:
- In-text citations function just as such: (Author, Page Number)
- When citing sources for a bibliography, use the following order for citation:
  o Author.
  o Title of source.
  o Title of container,
  o Other contributors,
  o Version,
  o Number,
  o Publisher,
  o Publication date,
  o Location.

Chicago/Footnotes:
- Chicago is often used for history/social sciences papers, and uses footnotes or endnotes
- The format for citing a source for the first time within the footnote is:
  o Author,
  o Title
  o Place of Publication
  o Name of Publisher
  o Year
  o Pages Referenced
- Further citations can just use the author's last name, title and page number.

Resources:
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/strategies-essay-writing