

# Writing Guidelines

## Structure:

We are writing topical essays. Your essay should have an **introduction** and a **conclusion**. The introduction should include a ***thesis statement***--your argument reduced to one sentence.

The building blocks of essays are paragraphs. A paragraph represents a distinct step within an argument. There's no rule that a topic sentences must come at the beginning of each paragraph, but that's what readers are used to, and that's what they find easiest to follow. In a good essay, each paragraph should have some logical connection to the one before it.

Careful proofreading and revision are crucial parts of the process of completing any essay.

[A good reference](#)

## Wording:

Choose wording that clearly expresses your ideas. Make sure that the subject and verb match; check number and tense.

# Assignment

**Due Wednesday Sept, 16 at the start of class.**

## Part 1:

Read the following article "[Life in the Outside](#)", by Harvey Blume published in the Atlantic Journal in March 31, 1999. Journalistic writing does not always require single sentence [thesis statements](#), but the thesis will be stated in the first paragraph and there will be a conclusion. There will also be unity and coherence in the structure of the article and its [organization into paragraphs](#). Look for these features and notice the clarity of wording as you read the article.

## Part 2:

In a one to two page persuasive (a.k.a., [argumentative](#)) essay, write a letter to the editor of a magazine to present your position regarding found/recycled object art. Is it art? Why or why not? Is it art if it is created by a credentialed artist? There is no right or wrong answer. Clearly state your position and support your opinion using facts and logical arguments. Think about what those who disagree with you might say, and address their concerns in counter-arguments.

Proof read your paper a day after you write it. Make sure you:

1. clearly state your opinion or position.
2. describe your supporting arguments, using facts, quotations, and other well-articulated evidence. (Note: In future assignments you will need to cite scholarly journal articles or books, but in this assignment that is not necessary. However, if in this essay you elect to use outside sources, please cite them in a consistent fashion.)
3. anticipate and address reader concerns and give counter-arguments.
4. structure your writing in an organized way.
5. choose precise and effective language.
6. use the active voice.
7. double space your paper and use a 12 pt font.