

WRAC: Shape of an Essay

The Hourglass Approach

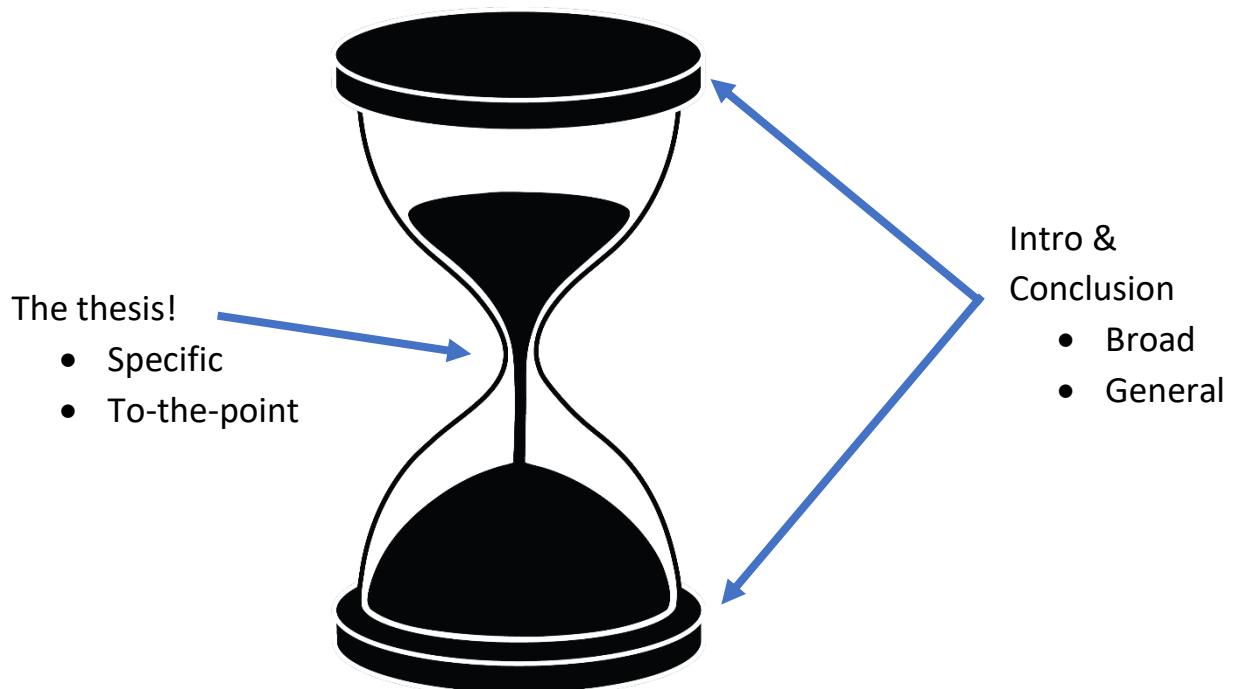
When it comes to essays, we probably don't see them take the form of a specific shape (perhaps, maybe a rectangle at best?). However, with the hourglass approach, we can organize our thoughts and ideas into strategic locations to help support our claims and arguments.



This is essentially an essay formula to help shape our brainstormed ideas, quotes, and analysis into an effective, powerful essay.

Let's begin!

Let's look at the shape of an hourglass in relation to writing and composition



INTRODUCTION

- **Broad**, general, opening statement and hook to encapsulate the audience
 - *Example: reality of the state of America today*
- Transition to the topic by opening with ideas
 - Introduce book and author (if applicable)
- Make more points that build up to and support the thesis
 - **The THESIS!**

A statement that is **specific**, and to-the-point

Three main points: A, B, and C

BODY

Derived from main points in **thesis**

- A** = Paragraph #1
- B** = Paragraph #2
- C** = Paragraph #3

Can divide into more paragraphs depending on length of essay

Each paragraph:

- Topic sentence
- Present ideas
- Specific evidence
- Analysis

Quotes, examples, facts, statistics, anecdotes, facts, testimony

P.I.E structure

CONCLUSION

- Start off specific by restating the thesis and main points
- Do not include any new information!
- Avoid saying “in conclusion” or “in summary”
- The conclusion should end **broadly** by suggesting ideas for further study, offering a solution, lessons learned, and/or how your thesis impacts you, your society, or the world in a call-to-action.