**![C:\Users\Bronwen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\MPE4M96H\MC900440428[1].wmf]()Writing a Research Essay**

**The Introduction**

* Regardless of how many paragraphs are used, three components **MUST BE PRESENT**:
	+ 1) **Attention Grabber** (otherwise known as a “hook”)
	+ 2) **Outline** (your essay plan)
	+ 3) **Thesis Statement** (what you will argue)

**1) Attention Grabber**

* **Goal**: to get the attention of the reader.
* There are several options:
	+ A) Startling or staggering information
	+ B) Anecdote
	+ C) Analogy
	+ D) Quotation (from an expert)
	+ E) Important Information

**A) Startling or staggering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Shocks and peaks the interest of the reader.
* Ex. Four out of five children are obese in American schools.

**B) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* An interesting but brief story, relevant to the topic that simplifies the main argument to engage the reader.
* Ex. The girl was circled by several bigger girls. They were teasing and calling her names. The girl quickly ran to her mother's car with tears running down her cheeks.

**C) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* A simple comparison of the topic to something that the reader would find more interesting.
* Ex. Cars are like a cancer, feeding off the healthy tissue of our natural resources and spewing their poisons into the global bloodstream until the body of the world is sick and weak. Surgery is needed. Let us cut out cars.

**D) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (from an expert)**

* Use a quote related to your topic to interest your reader.
* Ex. “By the middle of the twentieth century the literature on Napoleon already numbered more than 1,000,000 volumes (Durant, foreword).

**E) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Information**

* The SIMPLEST WAY for an intelligent but inexperienced writer to proceed is to use important information
* Begin with a thorough explanation of relevant background.
* Use plain language.
* Ex. Napoleon is a dominant figure in world history and his legacy in both the military and civil spheres is immense.

**2) Outline**

* The outline is essential in an essay.
* It should outline for the reader, in the same order that it appears in the essay, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ points you will argue in your essay.
* This will allow the reader to get a sense of how you will prove your point.
* Typically an outline will have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ points
	+ One point for each body paragraph.
* An outline can be one sentence, but it can also be multiple sentences joined together.

**3) Thesis Statement**

* The thesis is a precise statement of what will be proven in the essay.
* This statement should be the FINAL SENTENCE of your introductory paragraph.
* It is HIGHLY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It should pass the “So What?” test.
	+ Meaning, why is this important?

**Examples of Bad Thesis Statements**

* This essay will examine the system of alliances that led to the outbreak of the First World War.
	+ This is called purpose statement.
	+ It contains a purpose, but not a thesis.
* The system of alliances that brought about the First World War was foolish.
	+ This is an opinion, but it does not pass the “so what” test.

**Example of a Better Thesis Statement**

* The system of alliances that brought about the First World War was foolish **because** it ensured that each country would enter the war.
	+ Does it pass the “so what” test?
* The new and untested technologies created confusion amongst Allied forces at the Somme and ultimately led to the disastrous outcome of the battle.
	+ Does it pass the “so what” test?

**Introduction Checklist**

**Do you have:**

 **1) An Attention Getter?**

 **2) An Outline?**

 **3) A Thesis Statement?**

**Example Introductions**

1) Napoleon is a dominant figure in world history and his legacy in both the military and civil spheres is immense. His station in life did not guarantee him a leadership role; rather he had to work to earn it. Through his education, vision, military tactics, and personality he was able to rise to power in France and conquer much of Europe. His impact on the imagination of generations of scholars, writers, military tacticians, politicians and all people in general has been major as the following quote will testify: “By the middle of the twentieth century the literature on Napoleon already numbered more than 1,000,000 volumes” (Durant, foreword). An examination of Napoleon’s early years, his rise to power, his various accomplishments, military and political, and a brief assessment of his legacy will establish him as a dominant figure in world history and as a man who changed French society forever.

**Task:**

1) Identify the following by highlighting or underlying and labelling.

a) Attention Grabber-what type is it? (refer to your essay handout)

b) Outline—what four points will be argued?

 1.

 2.

 3.

 4.

c) Thesis statement

2) A declaration of war must be one of the most difficult decisions that a nation and its government must make. In a twenty-five year span, Canada declared war twice. In 1914, the Dominion of Canada accepted its call-to-arms from Britain with the expression “Ready, Aye, Ready!” There were very few people who spoke out against the war, and enthusiastic supporters participated in parades and enlisted for service. Some asked whether or not Canada was up to the challenge. Within weeks Canada mobilized an expeditionary force and was prepared to fight, and at Canada’s insistence, the men were allowed to fight as a unit. Some of these same things are true of WWII. Very few Canadians were immediately against Canada’s participation. Canada was ill-prepared but managed to organize quickly and effectively, and it was insisted that Canadians not be dispersed into British forces. Once again, Canada was prepared to fight alongside Britain. This is where the similarities end. In WWII, Canada did not blindly follow Britain’s orders as a mere Dominion of the Empire. Instead, Parliament debated the declaration, and then entered Canada into the war as an independent nation. Secondly, although Canadians supported the war, there was not the same glowing enthusiasm until Canadians came under direct attack. Finally, the King government hoped that Canada’s contribution would be fairly limited and was only dragged into a major role after the shocking surprise of Hitler’s success. All of these differences illustrate that WWII was not simply another imperial war: it was Canada’s first war as an autonomous nation. Although there are many similarities between Canada’s declaration of war in 1914 and 1939, there are important differences that make WWII a turning point for Canadian independence.

**Task:**

1) Identify the following by highlighting or underlying and labelling.

a) Attention Grabber-what type is it? (refer to your essay handout)

b) Outline—what three points will be argued?

 1.

 2.

 3.

c) Thesis statement