

Week 3: The College Essay and Argumentation, Part 1

THE PIECES OF THE COLLEGE ESSAY

You're probably bored stiff of hearing over and over and OVER about the three pieces of the college essay:

1. Introduction
2. Body
3. Conclusion

However, I think that lots of times, we hear these terms but don't really understand how they work together to create a clear, concise argument. So this week we are going to look at the pieces of the college essay in terms of how they work in "real world" conversation. You might be surprised to learn that nearly every time you communicate with somebody, your conversation has an introduction, body, and conclusion. It's just the way we communicate. But we get all freaked out about it when we put those pieces in the context of a college essay. There is no need to get freaked out. Hopefully you'll freak out a little less after reading chapter 3.

Then in chapter 4, we look at how we communicate in a slightly different way. It's the same idea; we're just looking at it from a different angle. Again, this is nothing new. Everything we do in a college essay, we do in normal conversation. We just do things a little more formally in the essay.

Enjoy!

READING

Chapters 3 and 4 in *The Super Compact Guide*

THE COLLEGE ESSAY DISCUSSION FORUM

Once you've completed the reading, go to the College Essay Discussion Forum link. Review my opening question and respond, and then respond to at least TWO of your classmates throughout the week.

GAZEBO BUILDING EXERCISE

By midnight Sunday night, submit the gazebo building exercise. Click the link under Topic 3 in the course and follow the instructions posted there. Complete this in an MS Word document and attach the document in the assignment screen.