English 11 Informative Research Paper Structure

**Paragraph #1** = Introduction that welcomes the reader to the topics, makes the thesis (purpose of the essay) clear and lists the aspects of the topic that will be addressed.

1. Grabber/hook/fluff = grabs the reader’s attention, broadly introduces the reader to the topic, universally connects the reader to the topic. Different strategies include making a bold statement, starting with a one word sentence, using an intriguing statistic, asking/answering a question, or stating a universal truth. Example = *Motherhood. Most women link this crucial element of society to their own identity. However, what happens when this blessing is encountered in a manner which the mother did not intend? A few options exist: raise the child, give the child up for adoption, or have an abortion. This third option is a controversial topic.*
2. Thesis = A clear statement of the author’s position that states the entire paper’s purpose and function. Each paragraph in the paper serves (in some way) to prove this statement true. At the end of the essay, the reader should be certain that the thesis is true. Example = *Abortion is a viable option when dealing with pregnancy and should be a legal choice for any woman.*
3. List arguments = Mentions, but does not explain, the ways that the thesis will be discussed. Example = *While adoption is an option and instances of rape are special cases, having abortion as a legal option allows a woman to be in control of her own body and prevents additional burdens to society.*

**Paragraph #2** = Expository paragraph #1 that **defines** the a subtopic for the reader. Specifically, this explains one sub topic or major detail of the issue: the legality of the topic, the history of how the topic came to be, the frequency of the topic, the cost of the topic, the future implications of the topic, etc. This paragraph is void of opinion and is neutral on the issue. **This paragraph has at least once source cited perfectly using MLA documentation.** Example = *An abortion is a complex process. Certain ways to get abortions are…Abortion is currently legal in the United Sates if…Abortion clinics provide…There are X abortions performed each year…*

**Paragraph #3** = Expository paragraph #2 that **defines** the a subtopic for the reader. Specifically, this explains a different, unique sub topic or major detail of the issue that you have not explained already. This paragraph is void of opinion and is neutral on the issue. **This paragraph has at least once source cited perfectly using MLA documentation.** Example = *An abortion is a complex process. Certain ways to get abortions are…Abortion is currently legal in the United Sates if…Abortion clinics provide…There are X abortions performed each year…*

**Paragraph #4** = Expository paragraph #3 that **defines** the a subtopic for the reader. Specifically, this explains a different, unique sub topic or major detail of the issue that you have not explained already. This paragraph is void of opinion and is neutral on the issue. **This paragraph has at least once source cited perfectly using MLA documentation.** Example = *An abortion is a complex process. Certain ways to get abortions are…Abortion is currently legal in the United Sates if…Abortion clinics provide…There are X abortions performed each year…*

**Paragraph #5** = Expository paragraph #4 that **defines** the a subtopic for the reader. Specifically, this explains a different, unique sub topic or major detail of the issue that you have not explained already. This paragraph is void of opinion and is neutral on the issue. **This paragraph has at least once source cited perfectly using MLA documentation.** Example = *An abortion is a complex process. Certain ways to get abortions are…Abortion is currently legal in the United Sates if…Abortion clinics provide…There are X abortions performed each year…*

**Paragraph #6** = Conclusion paragraph #1 that follows the following structure: Unique summative transitional phrase, topic sentence that states that the paragraph will be about consequences of the thesis being true and false. “Counter Argument” sentence(s) that explain what will happen if the thesis is false. This sentence is a “complex sentence” and uses a colon before a list. Contradictory transitional phrase, then a “Pro” sentence(s) that explain what will happen if the thesis is true. This sentence is a “complex sentence” and uses a colon before a list. Unique summative transitional phrase, thesis reworded. Example: *Furthermore, depending on how it is handled, this crucial issue of abortion will produce multiple long-term consequences. If abortion is outlawed throughout the United States, several problems will occur: women will have to break the law to make a choice about their body, they will engage in more unsafe “back alley” abortions, rape victims will face additional, unneeded stress in their lives, additional strains will be put upon society, and all employees at abortion clinics will be out of work. On the other hand, if abortion is legalized across the country, a multitude of positive consequences will arise: potential mothers will have clear, legal choices about their pregnancy, health advocates will stay employed and harmful side effects of illegal abortions won’t damage women’s reproductive systems. Clearly, have abortion as a legal, safe choice for women is the best avenue for society to pursue.*