Writing an Essay
Decide on Your Topic
What are you going to write about?

Cheetahs
Prepare an Outline or Diagram of Your Ideas
- list important things about your topic
- list support or proof for each idea

Cheetahs are mammals and members of the big cat family
Cheetahs live in the grasslands of Africa
- They travel and hunt over very large areas of land
- They hunt rabbits, birds, antelope, zebras, and wildebeest
Female Cheetahs live alone until they have babies
- They have 3-5 cubs a litter that keep a fluffy mane until 1 yr old
- Male Cheetahs hunt together in groups, usually littermates
Cheetahs are the fastest animal in the world
- Cheetahs can go from zero to 70 mph in a few seconds
Cheetahs are endangered animals
- More and more of the land is being turned into farmland
  - Less prey for the cheetahs
  - Farmers kill cheetahs to keep them from attacking their cattle
- Poachers kill cheetahs for their spotted fur coat
- If people don't learn to protect cheetahs they will become extinct
Write Your Thesis Statement
What is your point? What are you trying to say?
Why are you writing about this topic?

Cheetahs are amazing cats, fascinating animals that soon will be lost forever to mankind, if people don't learn how to protect them, and their home environments, from destruction.
Write the Body

• Write the Main Points
• Write the Sub-Points
• Elaborate on the Sub-Points
Cheetahs, the fastest animals on earth, are members of the big cat family and travel and hunt over very large areas of Africa's grasslands.

- They hunt rabbits, birds, antelope, zebras, and wildebeest
- Cheetahs can go from zero to 70 mph in a few seconds
- Cheetahs have thin muscular bodies, long strong legs and long flexible backs,
More and more of the open grasslands that the cheetahs live and hunt on is being turned into farmland.
- This means there is less land for the cheetahs to live and hunt
- It also means there is less prey for the cheetahs
- Cheetahs will hunt the farmers cattle for food
- Farmers kill cheetahs to keep them from attacking their cattle
- As their land disappears, Cheetahs find it hard to hide from their enemies
Poachers kill cheetahs for their spotted fur coat.

- Cheetah furs are sold to make coats and rugs.
- Selling Cheetah fur is now illegal.
- Conservation groups such as World Wildlife Fund are working to stop poaching and save the cheetah.
Write the Introduction

Motivator:

The cheetah is the fastest animal on earth today, but what about tomorrow?
A Brief Mention of Proof:

- Sum up the information in your topic sentences

Cheetahs may be the fastest animals alive today, but all this could change soon. The grasslands that these once-thriving members of the big cat family call their home is being taken away from them. And as if this isn’t bad enough, there are poachers who kill cheetahs so they can sell and profit from their beautiful spotted fur coat.
In 1900 there were 135,000 cheetahs alive. Today there are approximately 15,000 left. Because cheetahs don’t survive well in game reserves, people must learn to protect them in the wild or they will become extinct.
Conclusion

End with a clincher:

Extinction is forever. We need to act now, so future generations of people will be able to truly experience the future generations of the fastest animal on earth—the cheetah.