Steps for Writing an Essay

1. Decide on your topic
   - What are you going to write about?

2. Prepare an outline or diagram of your ideas
   - Use graphic organizers: “mapping”
   - List important things about your topic
   - List support or proof for each idea

3. Write your thesis statement
   - What is your point?
   - What are you trying to say?
   - Why are you writing about this?
   - Could anyone disagree with you? (If not, your essay will not spark an interest in your reader.)
   - 99% of the time the thesis belongs at the end of the introduction
   - Paragraphs that follow should carry the message of the thesis

4. Write the body
   - Write the main points
   - Write the sub-points
   - Elaborate on the sub-points

Body
   - Paragraph 1
     a. Topic sentence: first proof showing the thesis is true
     b. Support the topic sentence with examples (3 or 4 sentences)
• Paragraph 2
  a. Topic sentence: second proof showing the thesis is true
  b. Support the topic sentence with examples (3 or 4 sentences)

• Paragraph 3
  a. Topic sentence: third proof showing the thesis is true
  b. Support the topic sentence with examples (3 or 4) sentences

5. Write the Introduction
   • Motivator: First sentence should peak the reader’s interest
   • Add your thesis
   • Add a brief mention of your proof (the same information that is in the topic sentences of your body paragraphs, summed up)

6. Write the Conclusion
   • Reword the thesis: say it again, but in a different way
   • Clincher:
     o Add a clever statement pertaining to the thesis, showing once again that it is true
     o Something surprising, leaving the reader in awe, saying “Wow!” or “Yeah!”