Introduction

- Introductions should be specific to paper topic.
  - You could start with a recent article that exemplifies the concepts that you will discuss in your article.
- Avoid unsupportable generalizations (i.e. "Throughout history...")
- Be concise and avoid fluff
- Understand the conversations that scholars are having with each other.
  - How does your argument contribute to this conversation?
- Contains an easily identifiable thesis near the end of the intro paragraph
- Don’t leave the punchline to the end of the paper → make the point right at the start

Thesis

- Thesis must be clearly stated, easily identifiable and thoughtful
- Must be supported throughout paper with statistics, theories, and other relevant data
- Main ideas of each body paragraph should contribute directly to your main argument.

Subheads

- Short papers generally do not require subheads but in longer papers, subheads help with organization.
- Use them if you feel that subheads will help the reader.

Body

- Topic Sentence
  - Must have clear topic sentences that state a point supporting your overall argument.
  - During editing, ask what each paragraph contributes to your overall argument.
- Theoretical Concept
  - Accurate use of theoretical concepts clearly communicated to the reader
  - Students need not agree with a theoretical concept but they must demonstrate that they understand it
- Evidence
  - supports the main point of each paragraph, stated in the topic sentence
  - Reference works from the course that support your argument(s)
  - Paraphrase and cite your evidence, making sure it is clear why you are reference text(s)
  - Cite using the American Sociological Association’s guidelines
  - Be clear on “who said what”
- Analysis
  - Analyze what aspect of your argument the evidence supports
  - State what you want the reader to notice about your argument from your evidence.
- Make sure your paragraphs and sentences are not overly long

Conclusion

- Sum up the main points of essay and do not introduce new points or analysis in the conclusion.
- Reiterate ideas of introductory paragraph
Organizing Quantitative Research:

- **Purpose and Overview**
  - State the purpose of the study and its main findings
  - State a research question
  - Define concepts
  - Provide a hypothesis

- **Literature Review**
  - Presents the existing scholarly conversation on your topic
  - Highlight gaps in the literature and how will your research contributes to this conversation

- **Study Design and Methodology**
  - Describes the methods used and the execution of the study.
  - What is your population, sampling frame, research tools?

- **Analysis and Interpretation**
  - Presentation of analytical approach(es) and interpretation of data

- **Summary and Conclusion**
  - Only review significant findings
  - Should describe what study discovered and provide a direction for further research.
  - Review shortcomings of the study and suggestion(s) to avoid shortcomings in future research.