

# WRITING THE ESSAY

## The prompt

- **Assignment:** Read the following sources (including any introductory information) carefully. Then, in an essay that synthesizes *at least 4* of the sources for support, take a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim that ...

# Format

- 5 paragraph essay + works cited page
- Must use at least 4 sources, cited in MLA format
- 12-point times new roman font
- Uses in-text citation every time you use a source
- Don't use "I"

## In text citation

- There are 25 ways to build a birthday cake (Brown, 25).
- Brown says there are 25 ways to build a cake (25).
- Brown, Lara Langer. "Cakes are yummy." *The Emily Dickinson Journal*, vol. 23, no. 1, 2014.

## In text cite

- There are 25 ways to build a birthday cake (“Cakes”, 25).
- Cakes are yummy says there are 25 ways to build a cake (25).
- “Cakes are yummy.” *The Emily Dickinson Journal*, vol. 23, no. 1, 2014.

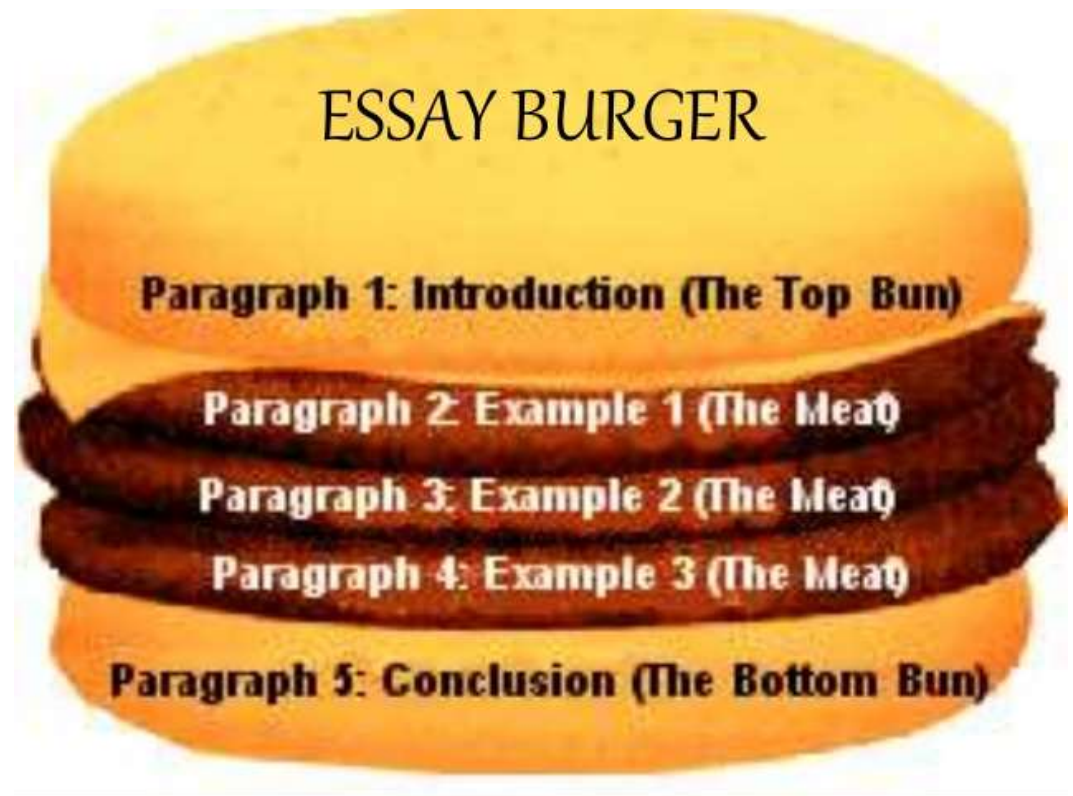
# Works cited page

- Title: works cited
- 4 sources
- Alphabetize list
- Hanging indent
- MLA format citations
- Don't need the URL or the summary

# Format

## Paragraphs 2 -4

- Topic sentence
- Evidence (source)
- Explain evidence
- Summary/transition to next paragraph



# Introduction



- Surprise
- Anecdote
- Statistic
- Question
- Don't say "In the book..."
- BE INTERESTING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



# Thesis statements

It all depends on them



# 1 A clear opinion

- Clearly defined opinion on some subject.
- You must tell your reader what you think.
- Not just an announcement of your subject matter



## 2 Only One Main Idea

- A good thesis asserts one main idea. Many essays get into **trouble** because the writer tries to explain **two different large issues** in one essay. Pick one main idea and explain it in convincing detail.



## 3 Worthwhile

- A good thesis has something worthwhile to say.
- Some thesis statements are boring and predictable from the start. ("Dogs have always been man's best friends.")



# Practice

- In my opinion, applying for a job can be a negative experience.
- There are some advantages and disadvantages to the country's new voting machine.
- Prayer in the schools is a hot issue today.

# Conclusion

Summarize main points

Restate thesis

Project to the future

--how does this apply?



# Due Dates

- Today—begin reading and annotating
- Printed Draft Due Thursday—Peer edit in class
- Final Due Friday—printed or shared via google doc

# Format

- 1.5 pages minimum + works cited page
- Must use at least 4 sources, cited in MLA format
- 12-point times new roman font
- Uses in-text citation every time you use a source
- Don't use "I"