**WRITING TIPS FOR THE INTRODUCTORY**

**PARAGRAPH AND THESIS STATEMENT**

A thesis statement is a single complete sentence written in a clear concise manner. It is the controlling factor of your paper. Since it gives direction to the essay, the rest of the paper should follow the thesis statement. It should show the attitude of the writer toward the subject presented, therefore the rest of the essay should support the theses statement. Do not announce your topic or simply restate the question. The grader will use your thesis statement to evaluate your essay, so it is important that you indicate clearly in the thesis where you are going with the essay.

One way to begin to write the thesis statement is to use a simple formula:

Although\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, nevertheless \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In this way you can use several clauses to get all the items you need to include in your thesis. The sentence needs to be complex – meaning it has multiple clauses.

Organize your thesis by developing three main points (if not already provided). These will be the topics of your three body paragraphs.

Write your introductory paragraph. **ESTABLISHING STRUCTURE IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF YOUR ESSAY – IT IS NOT AN OPTION!** Your introductory paragraph should look like this: **T – E - L**

1. **Thesis statement –** A critical factor present in the opening paragraph is the THESIS. Exam readers appreciate reading the thesis sentence at the beginning of the essay. Simply put, the thesis statement does two things

1. **Expansion** – Brief explanation of any key theme or complex idea contained in the thesis. This may also be where you put the question into historical context or explain why it is worth answering.

3. **List** – A quick listing of the main organizational points that will be used to structure and present the data used to defend the thesis. In your planning, you fleshed out three key points – list them here so the reader knows where you are going. These should be broad, general categories, not specific facts.