Writing a Structured Paragraph

Begin with a topic sentence

* This sentence should state what you will discuss in your paragraph
* This sentence should address your writing prompt specifically
* Include the *book title* and author in this paragraph – be sure to italicize the book title

Follow with three main examples

* Each example should be only one or two sentences
* Add textual evidence (a direct quote)
* Add an in-text citation ( #).

Use transitions

* Words like *first, second, next, additionally, lastly,* etc. help your ideas to flow. They also clue the reader in to your train of thought and shows him/her that you are moving on to a new example.

End the paragraph with a closing statement

* This sentence summarizes your ideas.
* Do not end with a quote!

Follow MLA format

* One inch margins (your word processor should already be set up with these margins)
* Indent your paragraph
* Double space your lines
* Add a header
* Add a proper heading
* Font: size 12, Times New Roman (Header too)
* Add a title

Basic Conventions:

* Spelling
* Capitalization
* Apostrophes
* Punctuation

Sentence Structure:

* Fragments
* Run-ons

Avoid:

* the empty word *thing*
* beginning sentences with words *So, And, and But*