

## Writing 121

### Structuring the research essay: Expository

- I. **Clever, interesting or catchy introduction (*possibly use research*)**  
Anecdote, statistic, example, case study, quotation, what if?, describe a scenario, etc. Bring up the topic.
- II. **Serious introduction to topic (*no research needed here, just your own words*)**  
General information  
Your specific topic  
Your thesis: \_\_\_\_\_ should be studied because \_\_\_\_\_.  
Transition into your detailed explanation
- III. **Background information needed? (*use research*)**  
Defining terms  
Explaining history  
Giving context of issue  
Reviewing current status
- IV. **Tell me all about the issue (*use research*)**  
Using the research you have, explain the issue to me - what it is, how it works, why it's happening, whatever. Use visual aids to clarify or illustrate complex points.
- V. **Controversy? (*use research*)**  
A fair, thorough, and reasonable summary of both sides.
- V. **Serious conclusion**  
A review of the issue and its implications  
*(Use research if it's needed; okay to summarize/synthesize all your research without citing it all again)*
- VII. **Wrap up (*no research needed*)**  
Unify the essay by revisiting something brought up in your introduction  
Go beyond your essay