Sample Thesis and Argument Summary

Below you will find a sample two sentence thesis and a suggestion for the structure of the opening sentences of each succeeding paragraph. This is a guideline for how your paper should be structured. To make a good argument you need a clearly structured paper.

Sample Thesis: Your paper should begin with a two sentence thesis and nothing else. No introduction, no conclusion. Make your statement and then argue from the evidence.

From Relative Isolation to Global Involvement

At the time of the Spanish American War the United States went from relative isolation to increased global involvement because of 1._____, 2.______ and 3._____. The consequences of this increased global involvement on American society were 4._____ and 5.______.

Here is a summary of hypothetical opening sentences for paragraphs. You should note that each paragraph opens with a sentence that tells us what proof in support of the thesis is about to be presented.

American policy makers were forced to consider a greater global involvement because of 1._____.

[Then supply evidence from lectures, readings and primary sources for #1.]

Humanitarians and business leaders agreed that 2._____ required international action.

[Then supply evidence from lectures, readings and primary sources for #2]

The consequences on American society of this expansion were 4._____.

[Then supply evidence from lectures, readings and primary sources for #4]

In addition Americans throughout the nation felt the impact of 5.______.

[And so on. . . .]

And so the document continues until it reaches its conclusion.