Roadmap for Writing Essays

Introductory Paragraph

Capture the reader's interest with
- A quote
- A fact or statistic
- A story or anecdote
- A question

As the arrow continues, so should your thoughts become more specific.

The last sentence should be the thesis, which should:
- Be debatable
- Be supported with evidence
- Say what you are going to discuss

Body Paragraphs

Idea/Topic 1
- Topic sentence
- Support, evidence, details, references
- Relate support to the thesis

Idea/Topic 2
- Transition and topic sentence
- Support, evidence, details, references
- Relate support to the thesis

Idea/Topic 3
- Transition and topic sentence
- Support, evidence, details, references
- Relate support to the thesis

Concluding Paragraph

Broaden ideas to include a:
- Question
- Quote
- Vivid image
- Call for action

Restate the thesis.

Make broad and general statements.

What is the moral/lesson of the story?