

6 WAYS TO STRETCH OUT THE LENGTH OF YOUR ESSAY!

1. CHOOSE A MORE SOPHISTICATED THESIS ARGUMENT, ONE THAT OFFERS MORE OPEN-ENDED QUESTION AND LESS EASY ANSWER, ONE THAT'S LESS SELF-EVIDENT AFTER READING THE SOURCE TEXT AND MORE OPEN TO DEBATE, DISCUSSION, AND CHALLENGE (THAT YOU'LL SUPPLY IN THE BODY OF YOUR PAPER WHEN YOU LAY OUT THE TEXTUAL EVIDENCE FOR YOUR CONCLUSIONS).
2. DO MORE SUMMARY WORK IN YOUR OPENING PARAGRAPH(S): SPEND MORE TIME LAYING OUT A DETAILED INTRODUCTION OF THE SOURCE TEXT(S) YOU'LL BE ANALYZING IN YOUR PAPER – THE MORE “BACKSTORY” YOUR READER KNOWS ABOUT THE SOURCE TEXT, THE EASIER IT WILL BE TO EXPLAIN YOUR THESIS POSITION(S) LATER ON.
3. PICK ANOTHER SUPPORTING POINT OR NEW PARAGRAPH TOPIC ALONG WITH A (SET OF) TEXTUAL EXAMPLE(S) TO BUILD A NEW BODY PARAGRAPH AROUND – INSERT THIS NEW PARAGRAPH SOMEWHERE INTO THE BODY OF YOUR EXISTING PAPER DISCUSSION.
4. OFFER A COUNTER-ARGUMENT OR AN ALTERNATE READING THAT OPPOSES WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY ARGUED IN YOUR PAPER SO FAR. BUILD AN ENTIRE PARAGRAPH (OR MORE) AROUND THIS NEW COUNTERVAILING POSITION, AND ADD NEW TEXTUAL SUPPORT WITH EXPLANATORY DISCUSSION JUST LIKE YOU WOULD FOR ANY NEW BODY PARAGRAPH. THEN, USE WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED EARLIER ON IN YOUR ORIGINAL DISCUSSION TO REFUTE OR DISCREDIT OR CHALLENGE THE COUNTER-POSITION YOU JUST INTRODUCED. THIS WILL ADD A LAYER OF SOPHISTICATED TO YOUR WORK, AND IDEALLY MAKE YOUR ORIGINAL THESIS POSITION MORE CLEAR, TOO.
5. LENGTHEN THE CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH BY GIVING AN EVEN MORE DETAILED SUMMARY OR RECOUNTING – IN NEW LANGUAGE – OF WHAT YOU'VE JUST FINISHED ARGUING IN THE PAPER. **OR**, PERHAPS YOU MIGHT TRY OFFERING SOME ADDITIONAL CONCLUSIONS THAT ARE SUGGESTED BY YOUR EARLIER DISCUSSION BUT WHICH YOU NEVER GOT AROUND TO MAKING ABOUT THE WORK YOU WERE ANALYZING. **OR**, PERHAPS YOU COULD ASK A RHETORICAL QUESTION THAT PUSHES YOUR READER'S THINKING PAST THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR ORIGINAL THESIS ARGUMENT (A “RHETORICAL QUESTION” IS A QUESTION IN WHICH YOU GET TO LAY OUT YOUR POSITION ON SOMETHING WITHOUT REALLY EXPECTING AN ACTUAL ANSWER OR REPLY – THEY ARE A VERY USEFUL LANGUAGE DEVICE WE SOMETIMES USE IN ORDER TO PROD OUR LISTENERS INTO CONTINUING TO THINK ALONG THE LINES WE WANT THEM TO THINK).
6. REREAD, OR HAVE A TRUSTED FRIEND OR TUTOR READ, YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS AGAIN, LOOKING PARTICULARLY AT “BREADTH” AND “CLARITY.” THAT IS, HAVE YOU *REALLY* EXPLAINED FULLY A GIVEN POINT IN A GIVEN PARAGRAPH, OR HAVE YOU *REALLY* OFFERED ENOUGH TEXTUAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR POSITION AND THEN DISCUSSED AND EXPLICATED THAT EVIDENCE ENOUGH SO THAT IT IS PERFECTLY, 110% CLEAR JUST WHAT IT IS YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY AND WHY YOU'RE SAYING IT? PERHAPS YOU NEED TO ADD A FEW MORE SENTENCES HERE, A FEW MORE SENTENCES THERE IN ORDER TO MAKE YOURSELF CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THAT FRIENDLY BUT TERRIBLY IGNORANT AUDIENCE OUT THERE THAT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE IMAGINING IN YOUR MIND AND WRITING FOR.

WHATEVER YOU DO THOUGH TO LENGTHEN YOUR PAPER, MAKE SURE **NOT** TO DO THESE THINGS:

- ***DON'T*** ADD EMPTY PHRASES OR USELESS “FILLER” LANGUAGE, BECAUSE THIS STUFF IS PAINFULLY EASY TO SPOT AND IT MAKES YOUR WRITING MUCH MORE CONFUSING AND MUCH MORE BORING FOR YOUR READERS
- ***DON'T*** ADD BIG FAT 2” MARGINS, OR INCREASE THE FONT SIZE TO 25 PT, OR SKIP 3 LINES BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS: THOSE ARE ALL ROOKIE MOVES THAT ARE DEAD EASY TO SPOT AND WILL ONLY YIELD A DEMAND FROM ME THAT YOU REDO THE WORK IN THE PROPER FORMAT
- ***DON'T*** REPEAT THE SAME OLD POINT(S) USING NEW LANGUAGE: CHOOSE A *NEW POINT* TO MAKE INSTEAD, WITH NEW TEXTUAL EXAMPLES TO SUPPORT IT