

# Writing A Geographical Essay is Like an Intellectual Journey<sup>1</sup>

<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Your introduction is like a signpost or a map at the beginning of a trail. It tells readers where you are going to take them, what ideas you will explore, and what they will see along the way. The introduction should <i>create a feeling of anticipation</i> and interest. It should also <i>contain a strong thesis statement</i>.</p>	<p><b>Ask yourself:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is my main <i>geographical</i> idea?</li> <li>• Is the main idea reflected in the thesis statement?</li> <li>• Who are my readers? What do they know and believe?</li> <li>• Why is my idea important here and now?</li> <li>• How do I want my readers to respond?</li> <li>• <i>Am I thinking like a geographer?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Body</b></p> <p>The body of the essay moves the reader along toward the destination or goal (i.e. support of the thesis). It might have one paragraph, but usually it has several. Each paragraph is <i>related to one of the points</i> you want to show the readers along the way. Some points may take more than one paragraph to develop completely. There should be <i>connections and transitions</i> between the points you show the reader.</p>	<p><b>Ask yourself:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What <i>geographical</i> points do I want to make to help my readers understand my idea?</li> <li>• What examples can I use to help the reader understand each point?</li> <li>• What evidence do I have that each point is true?</li> <li>• How can I keep the reader interested in following my ideas?</li> <li>• What is this paragraph about?</li> <li>• What does this paragraph do for the reader?</li> <li>• Have I cited all my sources properly?</li> <li>• <i>Am I thinking like a geographer?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>The conclusion is the end of the journey. It looks back on the points you have shown the reader, and <i>reinforces</i>, but does not necessarily repeat, the main idea. It also should <i>create a feeling of ending</i>, a farewell to the reader.</p>	<p><b>Ask yourself:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has the reader's mind been changed by following my points and examples?</li> <li>• If we continued this journey, where would we go next?</li> <li>• If the reader ignores the points you have made, what might happen?</li> <li>• <i>Am I thinking like a geographer?</i></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Adapted from: [http://www.csupomona.edu/~uwc/non\\_protect/student/Journey5cp.htm](http://www.csupomona.edu/~uwc/non_protect/student/Journey5cp.htm). Accessed 1/10/05.