**Introduction** – Ethos (Convince readers your topic is important)

1. Context – How does your thesis fit into the ongoing critical discussion of *Hamlet*? Use The Saylor Foundation packet.
2. Thesis – What point will your essay prove about *Hamlet*?

**Body Paragraphs** – Logos (Convince readers you are right)

1. Claim/Topic Sentence – What point will you prove in this paragraph? The point must support your thesis.
2. Support/Quote – What evidence do you have for the topic sentence? Quote exactly or use brackets and ellipses where necessary. The quote must be part of one of your sentences instead of being a sentence by itself.
3. Analysis – How does the quote prove your topic sentence? How does your topic sentence support your thesis?

**Conclusion** – Pathos (Convince readers to do something)

1. Briefly restate your thesis. This can sometimes be accomplished with as little as a dependent clause as a transition into the conclusion.
2. Expand – What implications does your thesis have for the rest of the play? If we believe what you say about *Hamlet*, what might that change about other aspects of the play that are beyond the scope of your essay?