**Essay Structure**

**You probably recall the 5-paragraph essay structure from high school. This structure can be used as a template for any kind of essay you want to do. The 5-paragraph essay has three main sections that correspond to the old speech class maxim, “Tell them what you’re going to tell them; tell them; tell them what you told them.”**

**5-paragraph essay             Speech Class Maxim**

Intro (Thesis statement)              Tell them what you’re going to tell them.

1 Body paragraph  

2 Body paragraph      }       Tell them.

3 Body paragraph  

Conclusion (Restatement)          Tell them what you told them.

**The essay is analogous to the syllogism and the scientific method.**

**5-paragraph essay            Syllogism                      Scientific Method**

Intro (Thesis statement)                                             Hypothesis

                                                                              Methods/Materials

1 Body paragraph                 Premise 1                    Data and Results

2 Body paragraph                  Premise 2

3 Body paragraph                  Premise 3

Conclusion                           Conclusion                  Conclusion

(Restatement of thesis)          (Therefore)            (Discussion of Results in regard to Hypothesis)

**The 5-paragraph essay is a framework to be transcended. The body paragraphs are analogous to the premises in the syllogism. One could turn the syllogism into an essay by doing something like this:**

Intro: (Therefore)

1 Body paragraph: Premise 1

premise A

premise B

therefore: Premise 1

2 Body paragraph: Premise 2

premise C

premise D

therefore: Premise 2

3 Body paragraph: Premise 3

premise E

premise F

therefore: Premise 3

Conclusion: (Therefore)

**If we look at the scientific method, the intro of your 5-paragraph essay is analogous to the hypothesis and methods section of a scientific paper. It is the part where you "tell them what you’re going to tell them:" what you think, briefly why, and by what method you are going to explain it to the reader. The conclusion of a scientific paper usually discusses how and why the evidence fits the hypothesis, tries to account for discrepancies, and suggests the next step in research. Noting that can make it easier to think of a way to structure a conclusion on another topic.**