ESSAY RULES/GUIDELINES

GENERAL

- Never use the word "I".....EVER!! Essay are presenting a way of thinking without personal agenda
- Assume it's not your teacher reading your essay but someone that knows nothing about what you're talking about....that way you will be much more specific in your details
- Avoid extremes unless they are 100% true (ALWAYS, NEVER)
- **ALWAYS** source your facts, quotes, information that wasn't your idea
- Don't even try copying an internet essay.....it just doesn't work
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INTRO

- Never start with the answer to your question. Begin by introducing the general topic
- Make sure you are clear as to the scope (what you are specifically talking about)
- Have a SOLID, DEFENDABLE THESIS STATEMENT LAST!!!
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BODY PARAGRAPHS

- Always start each paragraph with a TOPIC SENTENCE or a TRANSITION SENTENCE
- Generally intro your point a bit further before getting into facts
- **FACTS FACTS FACTS!!!** Prove your ideas with as much data, quotations, and information as possible
- After you give facts, explain *how* those facts prove your thesis
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CONCLUSION

- You want to restate your thesis first and then quickly restate your points
- Leave the reader with a thought for the future
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