Guidelines for Writing the Essay

The following is a <u>sample</u> for structuring your essay:
(adapted from *Thinking and Writing About Literature* by Edgar V. Roberts)

Theme:	Arsat inspires understanding and compassion in the reader.
Paragraph 1	INTRODUCTION containing CENTRAL IDEA and THESIS SENTENCE
	Central Idea: Arsat inspires a sense of understanding and compassion in the reader. Thesis Sentence: The sense of understanding and compassion inspired by Arsat results from his love for Diamelen, from his grief for the loss of his brother, and from Joseph Conrad's artful presentation of Arsat's feelings of loneliness and isolation.
	BODY containing three TOPIC SENTENCES
Paragraph 2	Topic Sentence: Arsat's love for Diamelen establishes him as both passionate and conflicted.
Paragraph 3	Topic Sentence: His grief underscores the guilt that he feels because of his role in the loss of his brother.
Paragraph 4	Topic Sentence: Joseph Conrad's artful presentation of Arsat's feelings of loneliness and isolation inspires the reader's compassion.
	CONCLUSION
Paragraph 5	Topic Sentence: Understanding and compassion for Arsat are powerful statements made by the story.

Writing Tips

Introduction

The introduction begins with general ideas and ends with specific points. Be sure to state what works, authors, characters, and ideas are under consideration. The first part of the introduction should present ideas that are related to the subject. The second part of the introduction states the thesis, which will draw the reader into the main text of the essay. Your thesis sentence should anticipate the body of the essay.

Body

In each paragraph of the body of your essay, present one of the main points in your thesis sentence, expanding and supporting with examples from the work or research.

Conclusion

The conclusion ties together the points of the essay or thesis. The closing lines may make a connection between the idea presented in the essay and life in general.