

Short form writing

The Template

Graf #1: What Happened

Graf #2: Why it matters

Graf #3: Summary of argument

Graf 4: Point #1

Graf 5: Point #2

Graf 6: Point #3

Graf 7: 1-2 sentence kicker

Example

Now y'all try!

Tips and Tricks

- Grammatically correct prose, at word count, on deadline
- Every piece can only do one thing
- Ideological Turing Test (would your opponent say that you accurately described their views)
- You're wearing a sweater and walking down a hallway...
- 95% of the time bad writing comes from not fully understanding what you're writing about.
- Think of writing as getting out of the way of the ideas, rather than some Kerouac-like wordsmithing activity

OMGEE I'm Stuck

1. Call your mom/dad/grandparent/cool aunt or uncle

- Explain what you're writing about
- Chances are the things you lead with are what you should lead with
- You'll probably figure out what is important/what isn't

2. Write an email to a friend about what you're writing about

- Delete "Hey x,"
- Publish