Basic Essay
You may have learned a Five Paragraph Essay format for the TAKS test.
Expand the idea for college writing.

Title:
• Should get the reader’s attention
• Consider introducing subject

Introduction Paragraph:
• Present the subject
• State the main idea
• Create interest for the reader
• End with the thesis statement (containing 3 or more points)

Second Paragraph (Body):
• Focus only on the first point of the thesis statement

Third Paragraph (Body):
• Focus only on the second point of the thesis statement

Fourth Paragraph (Body):
• Focus only on the third point of the thesis statement

Subsequent Paragraphs (Body):
• Focus on subsequent points, in order, of the thesis statement

Concluding Paragraph:
• Make the essay complete
• Re-emphasize the main points
• Restate the thesis
• Do NOT introduce new information; instead, give the reader a sense of completion
**Organization of Body Paragraphs:**
Generally, begin with your second strongest point, move into your weakest, and end with your strongest. You may want to adjust your thesis to fit this organization scheme.

If you are working on a research paper, here is a general outline for you to follow:

I. Intro
   A. Introduce author and piece
   B. Thesis--including 3 specific points

II. First body paragraph
   A. Topic sentence that relates directly to first point in thesis
   B. First point that supports topic sentence
      a. Quotation to support
      b. Explanation of how quotation supports
   C. Second point that supports topic sentence
      a. Quotation to support
      b. Explanation how quotation supports
   D. Concluding sentence

III. Second body paragraph
   A. Topic sentence that specifically relates to second point in thesis
   B. First point to support topic sentence
      a. Quotation
      b. Explanation of how quotation supports
   C. Second point to support topic sentence
      a. Quotation
      b. Explanation of how quotation supports
   D. Concluding sentence

IV. Third and subsequent body paragraphs (same as those above)

V. Conclusion (wrap up ideas here, but use new words)