You Can Write Brilliant Essays  
(Rockawin, K. 2006)

1. The Introduction
Your introduction is the first thing that will be read. You want to make a good impression, so it is important to get it right. An effective introduction states your approach (your inquiry questions). Your points should be given in the order that they appear in the essay.

2. The Body
Your essay should consist of properly structured paragraphs. A paragraph should be a section of your essay that develops one idea or point of your argument.
Use a specific paragraph structure – **TEXAS**:  
- **Topic Sentence**- which introduces the topic of the paragraph and links it to the inquiry question.  
- **Expand and Explain**– this gives more information about the paragraph topic. It usually explains the “how”.  
- **Examples**- evidence as appropriate – remember to in-text reference!  
- **Analysis**- discuss what the evidence means/proves etc.  
- **Summing up Sentence**- which sums up the paragraph and ensures it is directly linked to the essay question.

3. Conclusion
A sound concluding paragraph is vital to a successful essay. It is effective when it sounds finished, links back to the introduction, summarises (not repeats!) the content of the body of your essay, draws together the main points, gives a final evaluation of the facts/issues/points of view involved, has a strong/interesting final sentence (end with a kicker!). You must not introduce any new points in a conclusion.