Basic Elements of Composition
Thesis statements, topic sentences are both main idea statements
Thesis – main idea of a paper
Topic sentence – main idea for a paragraph
Evidence – a concrete detail that comes from a text
Often in the form of a quotation
Use proper punctuation to quote someone else’s words
Make a citation to give credit to that person
Integrate quotation into a sentence that you have constructed
(avoid floating quotations, or quotations that are sentences by themselves in your paper)
Explanation – often referred to as interpretation, analysis
Explain what the evidence means (to you)
Why it is important (to your topic)
How it supports the position (in your thesis)

The Writing Process
3 Basic Steps
Prewriting: brainstorming, thesis development, outline
Drafting
Proofreading: revise by correcting and editing the draft

Common Grammar, Punctuation Mistakes
Fused and fragmented sentences, comma splices
Comma usage (with conjunction, introductions)
Agreement issues – subject/verb, pronoun/antecedent

In-Class Writing Assessment
Students will be given a text to develop an analytical paragraph with appropriate basic elements (topic sentence, evidence, explanation)
Evidence of craft – the writing process – will also be important
so bring at least three sheets of paper, one for each step of the process
finally, punctuation and grammar will also be assessed
review previous essays to help focus on problem areas

Time Management
Three stages in one hour (or more)
20 mins. per stage
Don’t just start writing right away
Take your time as you draft
And don’t think you’re done once you finish drafting the paragraph
Make sure to (proof)read the paragraph