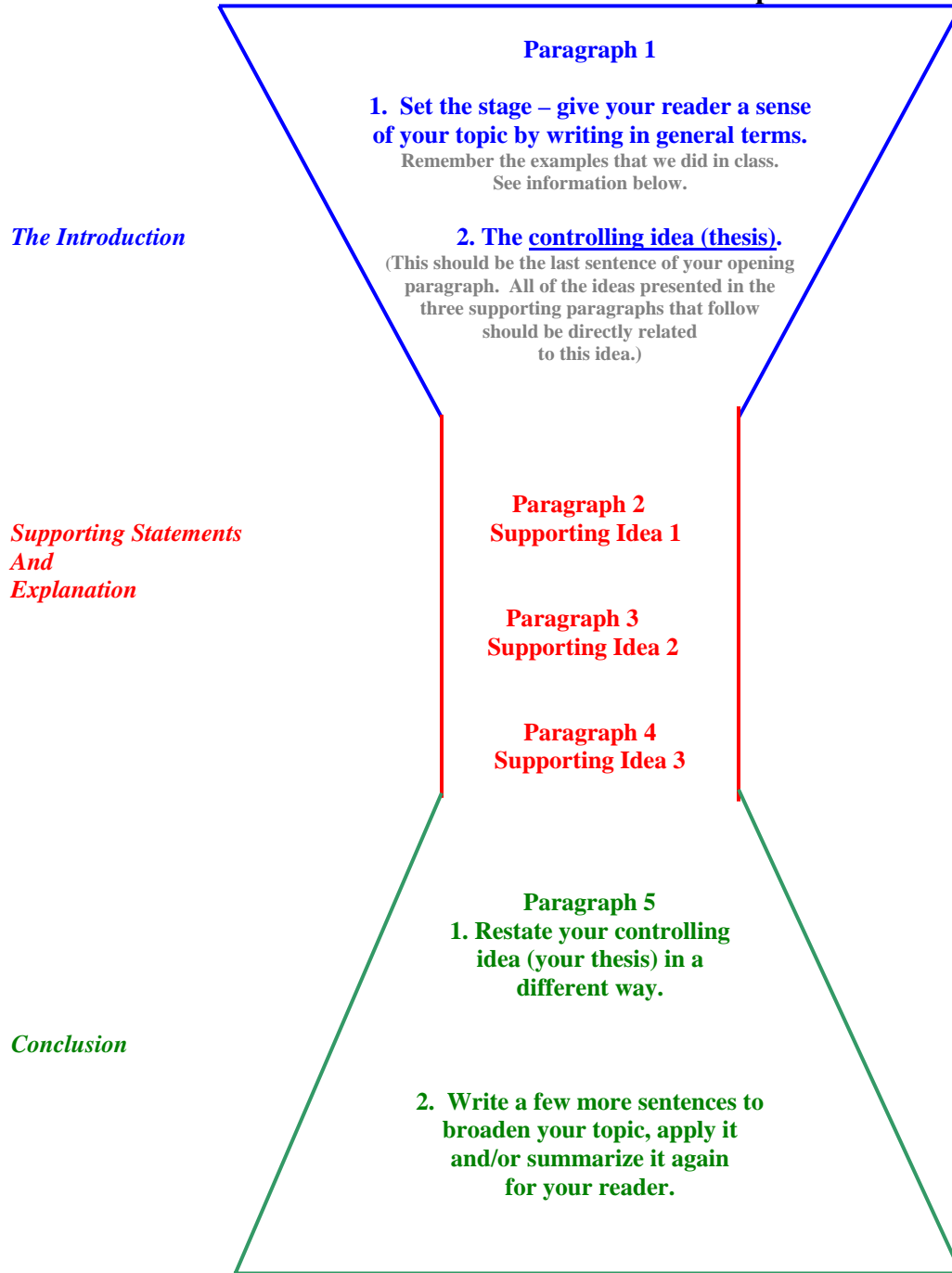


The Basic Structure of Good Composition



In this opening paragraph, you need to speak in general terms first. As we used in our class example, if you are writing about your favorite special foods associated with a holiday, you need to first talk in general terms about that holiday and its importance. You will then give your controlling idea as the last sentence of the paragraph.

The middle section is the body of the paper where you will support your controlling idea with at least three subtopics or examples or illustrations. This is where most of your writing will be done. These will be three supporting ideas with details that show the validity or application of your controlling idea.

The last paragraph is the conclusion. Students often fail to write an adequate conclusion; they simply stop writing. You must restate your controlling idea another way, in different terms. You will then need to broaden your writing to speak in general terms again, indicating why this topic has importance. For example, if you wrote about your favorite holiday foods, you will want to conclude with how these foods are a part of the celebration of this important holiday to your family.