Building An Essay Pyramid

Writing an essay can be daunting, but here’s some tips to help you with it.

First, choose a central idea - your **thesis** - and use supporting statements and evidence to reinforce it. A way to think of this is to imagine your essay as a pyramid, with the blocks beneath - supporting statements - acting as a framework to hold up your thesis.

For instance, the statement “Cats Make Good Pets” - by itself - is unsupported...

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**Cats Make Good Pets**

- Cats enjoy and seek out human attention.
- Many people say cats are good pets.
- Cats have been human pets going all the way back to ancient Egypt.
- Cats are playful and intelligent.
- Cats are cheap to feed and maintain.

...but by using supporting statements, we can reinforce our original point. Each supporting statement can be a single fact, a sentence, or even a full paragraph elaborating on the main point, forming the body of your essay.

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**Pet Therapy is useful to patients.**

- Cats Make Good Pets
- Medical Studies of Pet Therapy
- Patient Reports of Pet Therapy
- Veterinarian Reports

For longer essays, you can merge your thesis statements into a larger whole, creating support for a central thesis - in this case, using a statement about the merits of the cat as a pet to reinforce a larger point about the use of pets in patient therapy.