

After you write an essay, it is important to **analyze** it, or read it again carefully to see if you can make any improvements. Learning to analyze whether or not your essay contains certain key features will help you improve your writing. One of the first things you should do is **check that you have used the appropriate type of writing**. For example, if you wanted to describe how a place looks, you should have written a descriptive essay. If you wanted to show the similarities between two places, you should have written a comparison essay.

Next, you should **make sure your essay has a clear thesis statement**. Your thesis statement should state the main idea of the essay and include the main points that you write about in your body paragraphs. Check that your thesis statement is in the introductory paragraph, usually as the last sentence. Each aspect of the thesis statement will be described in its own body paragraph.

Check for unity when you analyze your essays. All of the information in the essay should relate to the thesis statement. Read each body paragraph in your essay, and make sure it has a clear topic sentence as well as supporting sentences that directly relate to the thesis statement.

Make sure your essay has a strong concluding paragraph. Read your concluding paragraph and make sure it restates the thesis statement, summarizes the most important points of the essay, and offers a suggestion, an opinion, or a prediction.

Finally, **make sure your essay has clear organization**. As you read your essay, make sure that your ideas are easy to follow. Remember that common ways to organize essays are time order (the order events happen), spatial order (the physical location of items), and point-by-point organization (writing about one aspect of the thesis statement in each body paragraph).

- 1 **Read the thesis statement from an essay about how mocap was used in a movie. Check (✓) three topic sentences from the body paragraphs. Remember to make sure they are directly related to the thesis statement.**

Thesis Statement: Many critics agree that mocap made the characters appear realistic, believable, and interesting.

- ☐ a. Mocap gave the characters emotional expressions that brought their personalities to life.
- ☐ b. The movie made more money in ticket sales than any other movie in history.
- ☐ c. The characters moved like real people because of mocap technology.
- ☐ d. Mocap allowed the characters to interact realistically, making the story more interesting.