Stage #3: THINKING - Organizing Ideas

Creating a Paragraph Outline for an Essay

**Introductory Paragraph**

- **Hook**
  - Catchy beginning
  - Possibly a fact, quote or question

- **Topic**
  - Description of subject, give background and describe problem

- **Question/Position**
  - State question or position to be argued

**Body Paragraphs**

- **Sub-Topic 1**
- **Sub-Topic 2**
- **Sub-Topic 3**
- **Sub-Topic 4**

**Body**

- Each paragraph must have a topic sentence (no specific number of paragraphs)
- Organize paragraphs logically to support question/position
- Begin and end each paragraph with strong arguments
- Use transition words between sub-topics

**Concluding Paragraph**

- **Summary statement for question or position.**
- **Implications and importance**
- **Conclusion**
  - Final key ideas with your personal thoughts/reflections
  - No new information
  - Reword question/position and end with a bang