The 5 Part Method: Arranging Questions

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Disclaimer: I'm actually a Pittsburgh Steelers fan. However, that didn't stop me from writing a book about the great Brett Favre. (...I mean he's an American treasure for crying out loud! Long live #4!!!...)

ANYWAY, many non-English professors do not have a "go to" method for teaching writing in their courses. The 5 Part Method is a quick and effective way to bring students to a formal essay while simultaneously facilitating discussion and/or investigation.

The 5 Part Method is based primarily on questions. An entire essay can be organized and drafted without even starting the search for answers. A series of questions -- properly placed -- is shown to be a "first draft" of an essay. The research process, in turn, is only a matter of crafting paragraphs and pages with the discoveries and/or opinions of experts.

The 5 Part Method is wholly concerned with questions, and, consequently, it is translatable to every discipline concerned with learning through writing.

Now, all this sure sounds academic, doesn't it? But, the book I wrote about The 5 Part Method is lighthearted and fun. Available on POLO, The 5 Part Method is at once a textbook and a must-read. In a humorous meta-essay, I explain the 5 Parts to every essay:

 setup

 focus

 outline

 proof

 new conclusion

The 5 Parts to every paragraph:

 establish authority of expert

 paraphrase expert's focus

 great citation from expert

 paraphrase citation toward your focus

 repeat as necessary
And, the 5 Parts to every sentence:

**PUNCTUATION**

**WORDS**

**INDEPENDENT IDEAS**

**DEPENDENT IDEAS**

**PURPOSE**

If that wasn't enough, there's even a chapter on performing 5 Part Analyses of texts -- the hallmark of effective study strategy. And, it's all color coded to boot! (…I once aspired to be an artist like Warhol -- except I wanted to work with Ring Dings exclusively…)

The great thing about the book being on POLO is that you can also refer your student's to certain passages and/or pages.

Finally, there is a set of useful exercises (…5 to be exact! :) ) that will help you incorporate the method into your classroom.

[Click here](#) for access to *The 5 Part Method* in POLO.