Tips for Writing Rough Draft of Academic Papers

You should have at least a working outline completed before writing your paper. You are going to write in sentence and paragraph form what you have on your outline. Your rough draft should be typed and totally completed. In class, we will do some editing on the paper, and then the final paper should be an iteration of the first draft.

Introduction:

For your introduction, begin with the attention-getter that you have on your outline. Then tie in the background information. Then end the introduction with your thesis. Note: the first and last sentences of this paragraph are already written on your outline. You need to write 3 or 4 for the background information.

Body paragraphs:

Each of the body paragraphs should begin with the topic sentence, which you have written on your outline. The topic sentence must be a sentence, not a question, that is your ideas and your words.

After the topic sentence, make a statement that supports your topic sentence and leads into an example, a quote or paraphrase. Present your quote or paraphrase. After you have given support, spend a sentence or two explaining how the example(s) support the topic sentence. Make sure to end body paragraphs with your own words and your own ideas.

Concluding paragraph:

For the first sentence restate your thesis. This means that you say about the same thing as you did in your thesis, but you say it differently. After this sentence, write minimally 2 or 3 more sentences that emphasize that it is important to remember. You might say that it is a good for everyone to know this history for a certain reason.