Steps to Organization

1. Think Big—The Thesis
   - Do you have a thesis? Is it the last sentence of your introduction paragraph?
   - Is your thesis big enough that you can write about it in 5 paragraphs, but small enough that you can prove it in only 5 paragraphs?
   - Does your thesis imply an organization of the topic sentences?

2. The Next Level—Topic Sentences
   - Do your topic sentences support the thesis?
   - What is the best order of your topic sentences? Is there a logical progression from one idea to the next?
   - Do you save your best topic sentence for last?

3. Save the Small for Last—The Paragraphs
   - Does your body paragraph have a topic sentence?
   - Is your evidence in a logical order?
   - Do you explain how your evidence relates to your topic sentence and thesis?
   - Do you have a concluding sentence?