Boxes and Bullets
The Nuts and Bolts of Building an Essay

Thesis / Position Statement:

Students should have a snow day during bad weather.

Bullets (Reasons):

- Students should have a snow day during bad weather, because cars could get in an accident.

- Students should have a snow day during bad weather, because buses can't drive in the snow.

- Students should have a snow day during bad weather, because walking to school could be dangerous.
Claim Statement:
Students should have a snow day during bad weather.

3 Reasons:
1. Cars could get in an accident.
2. Buses can’t drive in the snow.
3. Walking to school could be dangerous.

Topic Sentence: First, cars could get in an accident.
- Cars can’t drive well on icy roads.
- Parking lots are icy, and cars can’t stop easily.
- Snow and ice can cover windshields and street signs.

Topic Sentence: Second, buses can’t drive in the snow.
- Buses could lose control on the roads with kids in them.
- If it’s too cold, the buses’ engines won’t start.
- They could get stuck in a neighborhood or snowbank.

Topic Sentence: Third, walking to school could be dangerous.
- Sidewalks can be icy, and kids could slip and fall.
- If people don’t shovel their sidewalks, kids can’t walk on them.
- Kids who walk to school can get frostbite in cold temperatures.

Repeat the Claim with a New Thought:
A lot of snow makes getting to school dangerous, so students should stay home for a snow day.
Students should have a snow day during bad weather. There are many reasons why. First, cars could get in an accident. Second, buses can’t drive in the snow. Third, walking to school could be dangerous.

First cars could get in an accident. A car could get in an accident, because it can’t drive well on icy roads. Once, I had to stay home from my cousin’s birthday party, because the roads were too slippery, and my mom didn’t want to drive on them. Another reason cars can get into accidents is parking lots are icy, and cars can’t stop easily. Also, snow and ice can cover windshields and street signs, and a car could get into an accident.

Second, buses can’t drive in the snow. Buses could lose control on the road with kids in them. A bus could skid on the ice and get into an accident. Also, if it’s too cold, the buses’ engines won’t start. If this happens, kids can’t get to school. In addition, the buses could get stuck in a neighborhood or snow bank.

Third, walking to school could be dangerous. For example, sidewalks can be icy, and kids could slip and fall on them. If that happens, they could break an arm or a leg. Also, if people don’t shovel their sidewalks, kids can’t walk on them. Once, when I was walking on a snowy sidewalk that wasn’t shoveled, I slipped and fell on the ice
underneath it. Another example is kids who walk to school could get frostbite in cold temperatures.

A lot of snow makes getting to school dangerous, so students should stay home for a snow day.