



**Figure 9.3 The Three Stages of Catabolism.** A general diagram of aerobic catabolism in a chemoorganoheterotroph showing the three stages in this process and the central position of the tricarboxylic acid cycle. Although there are many different proteins, polysaccharides, and lipids, they are degraded through the activity of a few common metabolic pathways. The dashed lines show the flow of electrons, carried by NADH and FADH<sub>2</sub>, to the electron transport chain.