

STRUCTURING YOUR ESSAY

Introduction

Don't make the reader guess what your essay is about! In your thesis statement, tell the reader exactly **what** position your essay will put forward. Then list your arguments, or **how** you'll support your position. The intro is a map that gives your essay a sense of logical organization and progression.

General statement

(Main idea)

Thesis statement

Overview

Body Paragraph 1

Topic sentence

Intro to evidence 1

Evidence 1

Analysis of evidence 1

Intro to evidence 2

Evidence 2

Analysis of evidence 2

Concluding sentence

Body Paragraph 2

Topic sentence

Intro to evidence 1

Evidence 1

Analysis of evidence 1

Intro to evidence 2

Evidence 2

Analysis of evidence 2

Concluding sentence

Body Paragraph 3

Topic sentence

Intro to evidence 1

Evidence 1

Analysis of evidence 1

Intro to evidence 2

Evidence 2

Analysis of evidence 2

Concluding sentence

Conclusion

This is where you show off the fact that all of the evidence you've selected and analyzed proves your thesis. Restate your thesis not as a hypothesis but as an established fact. Succinctly summarize your main points. In the last sentence of your paper, you can "zoom out" to reveal your topic's importance in a wider context.

Synthesize main points

Restate thesis

Importance of essay/
Further areas of inquiry