

Basic Essay Structure

Introduction

In the introduction, you prepare the reader for what they will encounter in your essay by:

- **Describing the general context for the topic of the essay**
- **Telling your reader what you will focus on within this topic**
- Telling your reader something about **how you will approach the topic/how you have structured your essay**
- **Giving the reader an indication of where you are leading them/your conclusion** (hint: you can only write this once you have written the rest of the essay and reached a conclusion)

Body

In the body of your essay, **you will discuss different aspects of your topic, one at a time, and in a logical order** using multiple paragraphs

Paragraph

Each paragraph should have a clear focus and present a comprehensive discussion or argument about some aspect of your topic by:

- **Telling your reader what the paragraph is about** (topic sentences)
- **Giving your reader some information about the paragraph topic (integrating sources)**
- Proving an example or two to show that you understand how this information applies or is relevant in a real-world context
- Analysing the relationship between the information and examples, **to reach a conclusion** (deeper understanding/new learning) about the paragraph topic
- Providing a link that logically guides your reader towards the topic of the next paragraph

Conclusion

In the conclusion, you present **a summary of the different conclusions you have reached** in the body of your essay by:

- Reminding your reader about **where you started this discussion** (the focus of your essay)
- Giving your reader a summary of **the conclusions you reached in each section or paragraph**
- **Telling your reader what you think this means when you consider it these conclusions all together**
- Saying something about why this is important
- Linking your conclusions back to **the general context for the topic of your essay** (hint: this is a link back to your introduction)

References

Your reference list should be a comprehensive list of all the sources you have referenced in your essay. The structure of your reference list will depend upon any specific instruction you have been given and/or the referencing style you are using

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