

Basic Essay Structure

Introduction is about 10% of total paper

INTRODUCTION

State what your essay is about and why the topic is important, in the first part of the introduction. Next, outline the ideas covered in the body of the essay in the order they will be presented. You may also define keywords and indicate the scope of the essay. The introduction is one paragraph.

Main body paragraphs

PARAGRAPH

Topic sentence:

Often the main idea of the paragraph is clearly stated in the first sentence. It says what the paragraph is about and may provide a link to the previous paragraph.

Supporting sentences:

These explain the topic sentence by giving: facts, evidence, reasons, evaluation of concepts and theories, examples, and quotations or paraphrases from relevant readings.

Concluding / Linking sentence: (optional)

This rounds off the discussion of the paragraph and may provide a link to the next paragraph.

PARAGRAPH

Topic sentence, supporting sentences, concluding / link sentence.

PARAGRAPH

Topic sentence, supporting sentences, concluding / link sentence.

Conclusion is about 10% of total paper

CONCLUSION

This is a summary or review of the main points discussed in the body of the essay. It may be appropriate to mention what you have gained from researching the topic and/or future implications. No new information should be added at this stage.