



STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY

Introduction (10% of total words)

- Gains the reader's attention
- Provides brief background material about the meaning, context & significance of the topic. Includes definitions of keywords if necessary.
- Identifies the 'gap', problem or issue outlined in the question. Gives the reader some understanding of the order in which the ideas in the essay will be presented.
- Clearly identifies the author's point of view in a thesis statement.

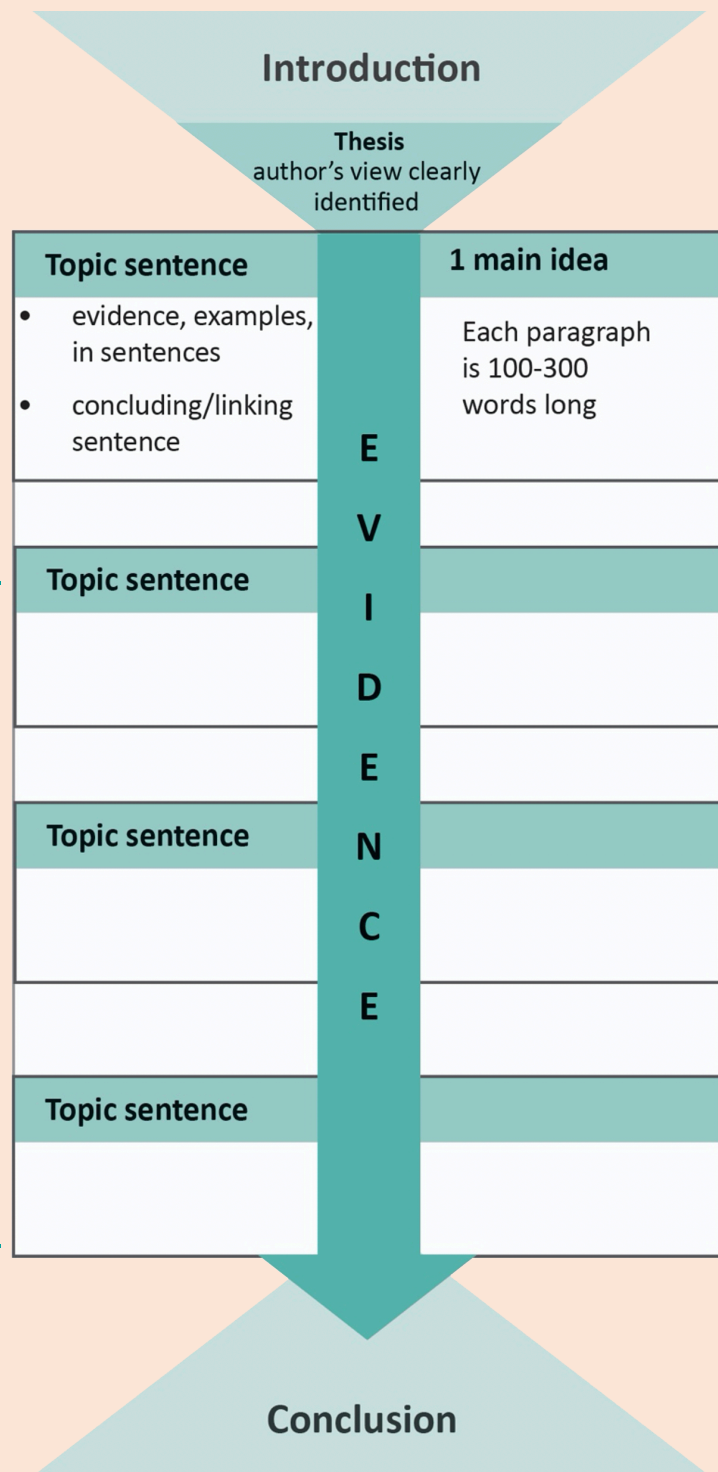
The body of an essay

(100 -200 words each paragraph)

- Your argument is developed through paragraphs. Each paragraph should contain only one main idea, as stated by the topic sentence.
- Each paragraph supports the main idea by
 - explaining the issue, and providing evidence -
 - e.g. quotes, statistics, facts, examples, case studies.
- Decide how many points you wish to make and in what order.
- Link the paragraphs together.
- Make sure paragraphs follow in logical sequence (as promised in the Introduction) so that the essay flows towards the conclusion.

The conclusion (10% of total words)

- Sum up your main points.
- Tie these back to the thesis statement.
- Avoid adding new material or using quotes.
- Possibly comment or make recommendations for further discussion of topic.



Related resources:
 Analysing the Question
 Instructional Words

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