

APSU Writing Center

Parts of an Essay

Parts of an Essay

An **essay** is a piece of writing that aims to inform, explain, or persuade a reader about a particular topic. A well-structured essay includes three main parts: the introduction, the body, and the conclusion.

Introduction

- Sets the tone for your essay and should:
 - Provide the reader with a blueprint or roadmap of the essay's order.
 - Grab the reader's attention with a **thesis statement** that gives an overview of what the essay will be about.
 - The thesis statement gives insight into the examples and evidence presented in the paper.

Body

- The body paragraphs develop and support your thesis statement through evidence, explanation, and analysis.
- Each paragraph should focus on one main idea and follow this general structure:
 - **Topic Sentence:** Introduces the main idea of the paragraph and connects back to the thesis.
 - **Supporting Evidence:** Provides facts, examples, data, quotations, or references that strengthen your point.
 - **Analysis:** Explains why the evidence is important and how it supports your argument. This is your interpretation or insight.
 - **Transition Sentence:** Smoothly connects one paragraph to the next to maintain logical flow throughout the essay.

Conclusion

- Restates the thesis statement in a new way, reinforcing the central argument.
- Summarizes key points from the body paragraphs to remind readers of your main ideas.
- Encourages further reflection by giving readers something to consider or a call to action.

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Essay Outline

Introduction

Essay Topic:

Main Points to Consider:

Thesis Statement:

Body Paragraph (Repeat until paper is complete)

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Evidence:

Analysis:

Transition Sentence:

Conclusion

Restate Thesis In New Way:

Reflection/Call to Action:



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References

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<https://www.uvu.edu/writingcenter/handouts/basic-essay-structure.html>