

Parts of an Essay

APSU Writing Center Handout

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

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

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 a New Way:
- Reflection/Call to Action:

References

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