

How to write an essay?

There are three main parts in an academic essay:

1. Introduction

In the introduction one should introduce the topic of the essay by

- arousing the reader's interest in the topic
- giving background information
- including the main thesis (the main idea or claim of the essay)

One usually moves from general information to more specific information. Therefore, the thesis statement is usually in the end of the introduction.

2. The Body

In the main body of the essay one should support the thesis statement by

- making arguments to prove the thesis to be true by explaining one's point of view and giving grounds to one's opinions
- writing a topic sentence for each paragraph (there should be paragraphs in the body)
- making each paragraph an independent unit that is linked to the previous one and to the thesis (by using transitional phrases).

A topic sentence is a sentence that clearly states the main point of that paragraph. Everything else in the paragraph should support that point.

3. Conclusion

In the conclusion one should tell the reader what was said in the essay by

- bringing up the main claims/points of the essay
- reminding the reader about the thesis
- giving a general comment on the topic (based on the argumentation in the essay)

One should not introduce more/new arguments or information in the conclusion (since this should be done in the main body).