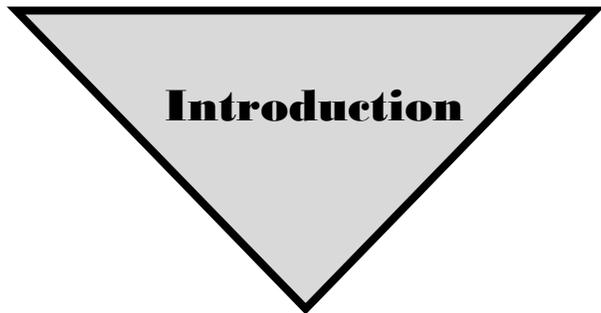


BASIC ESSAY STRUCTURE

A basic essay consists of three main parts: introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion. While this basic structure can be used for any essay you write, your writing style and organization should always be adjusted to match your topic and any specific assignment guidelines.



Thesis Statement

Introductory Paragraph:

The first paragraph of your essay should introduce your topic. Start with a **hook** to draw your reader in. Provide some general information about the topic, but gradually become more specific as you build towards your thesis statement.

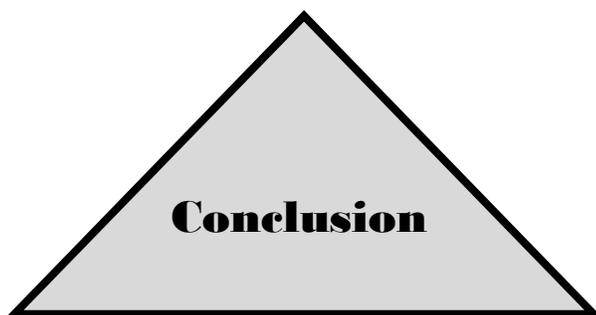
Your **thesis statement** states the main idea or argument of your essay. It should tell the reader what you plan to say and which main points you will use to support your claim.



Body Paragraphs:

Each of your body paragraphs should discuss one of the main points mentioned in your thesis. A strong essay will discuss three or more main points, so this section should be three paragraphs long or longer.

Each point should be developed in one or more paragraphs. Depending on the assignment, you should develop your paragraphs by including specific examples and details from your course readings, research and personal experiences. You should also include some of your own analysis and discussion of the topic to help tie the ideas in your paragraphs together and explain their connection to your thesis.



Concluding Paragraph:

The final paragraph of your essay should bring all your main points together. It should refer back to your thesis statement without simply repeating it. You should resolve any ideas you brought up in the essay, but do not introduce any new information at this point. As you draw to a close, you will want to move from the specific (the argument you made throughout the essay) to the more general implications of your argument.