



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*.
- It is often helpful to use the verbs from the assignment question and/or rubric.

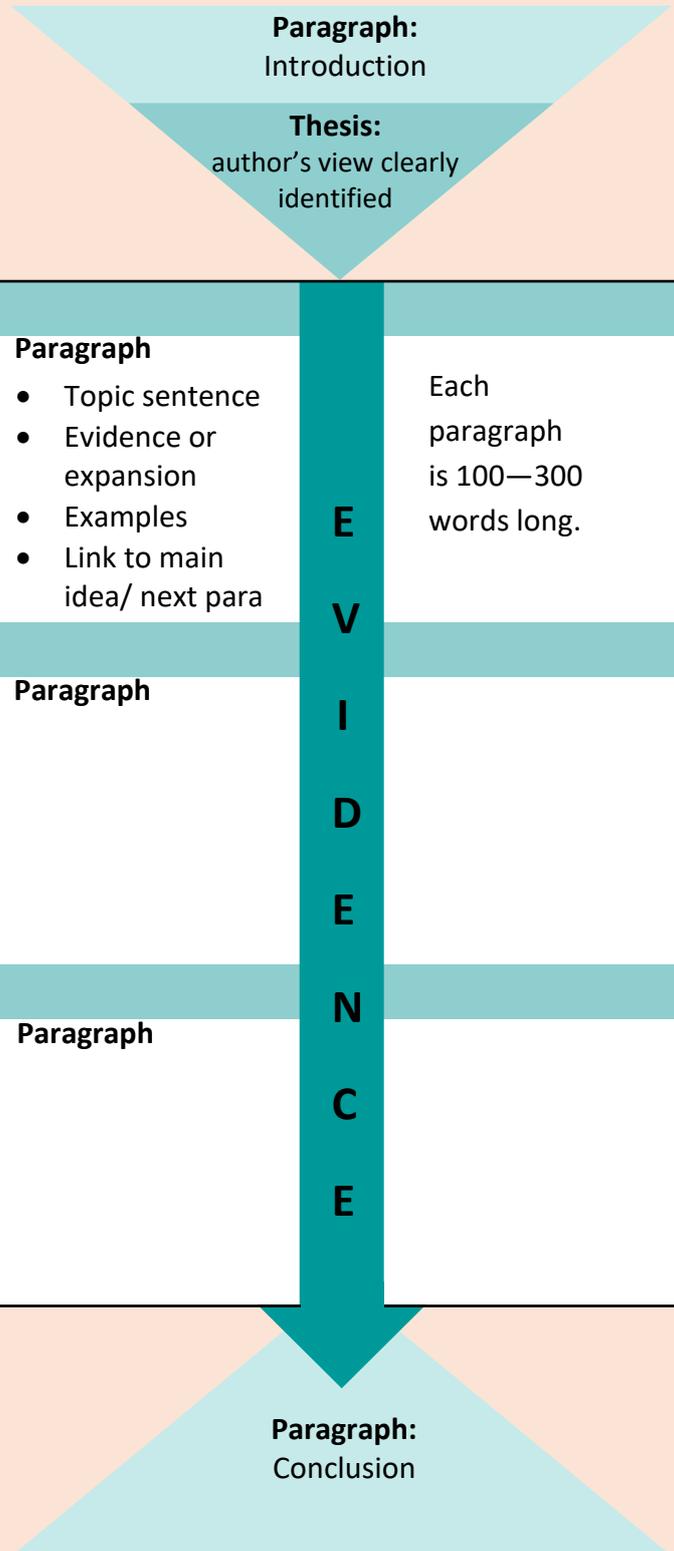
The body of an essay

(100—300 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
 - Focussing on some aspect of 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 outlined 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 and/or assignment question/instructions.
- Avoid adding new material or using quotes.
- Possibly make recommendations about next developments, or further research etc.



Related resources:

[Analysing the Question](#)

[Instructional Words](#)

[Thesis and Concluding Statements](#)

[All study resources](#)

