

ESSAY STRUCTURE

Introduction – Paragraphs – Conclusion

Welcome to the presentation on ‘Essay Structure’. Today we will be discussing the degree of the basic elements of an essay.

Some of you might be stuck and you are not sure where to begin. You have your ideas. You know what you need to do, but you are not sure how to start.

The best way to start is to actually brainstorm. And this means discharging down some ideas, writing down some notes and doing some preliminary research. Now, some of you have already done this, and you know where you are to go, but, of course, your brain storm hurts... Let’s take all of information right now and get organized.

How do we get organized? An essay is like a file cabinet. Everything has its place: the INTRODUCTION to develop new paragraphs and the CONCLUSION, each have their own drawer. In order to put everything in its proper place we need to create an outline. On the top drawer we have the INTRO. Then we have the developing paragraphs in the subsequent drawers, of course, with the CONCLUSION at the end.

Now your file cabinet needn’t have only four drawers, it can have as many drawers as you need to. It helps to draw a graphic outline like this one (see the one on the screen) that can serve as a blue print for the rest of the essay. At the top, of course, is the INTRO. The intro is very important because it lures your reader into your essay. The first sentence must be a good hook, must grab the reader’s attention right away. Then we wanna keep them in the house, right?, we wanna keep them reading our essay. We have to set up a situation, you know the subject, you give some background information, whatever you need to in order to keep them in there. Once they are in the house then we have to offer them the thesis statement, they need to know why they are in the house. They should be so intrigued by your essay at this point that they are going to wanna move in. But you don’t want them to move in. You can, however, offer them a nice well-stacked breakfast. Each of these layers contains a body paragraph and you want to start each paragraph with a topic sentence, support your assertions and transition to the next point. Now you can’t have a pancake <?> syrup, can you? But not just any syrup... You need to use the good stuff, the maple syrup. Use only credible sources, pour on the evidence. You will need good evidence to support whatever claims you make and always credit your sources.

Yes, a nice cappuccino will do! All in this case will serve as a good conclusion paragraph. The CONCLUSION should wrap up the essay nicely and leave your reader thinking, wanting more. Ask yourself this question (see the question on the screen): ‘Is your reader satisfied?’ And that should be your answer (see the answer on the screen): ‘Heck, YEAH!’ Your reader should be happy like this gentleman here (see the picture on the screen). Form afore all knowledge you have just given them.

I hope that this brief presentation has been helpful and I wish you the best of luck!