

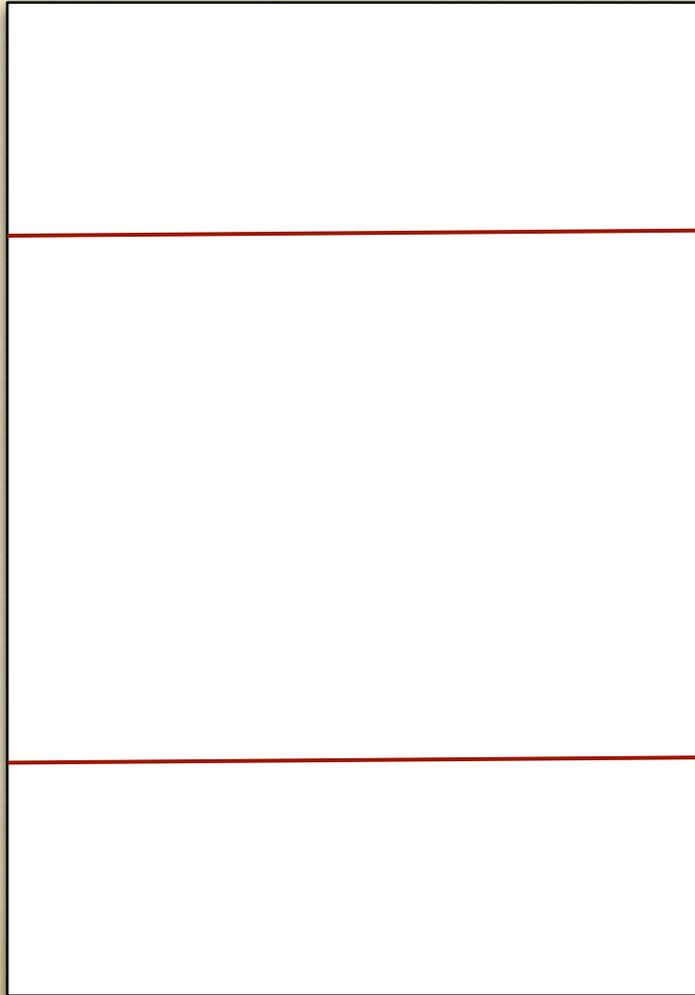


# Essay Structure

*Building a Better Essay*

by Anthony Starros, M.F.A.

# Academic Essays have Three Parts:



An intro

A body

A conclusion

**The intro should be built using a strong method of introduction, and it should include your thesis statement.**

Some say that it is best to have the thesis statement as the first sentence - some say it is best to have it at the end.

The truth is, depending on the effect you want, the thesis statement can go anywhere in the intro.

The body of an academic essay consists of a series of paragraphs meant to expose, illustrate, and *support* the essay's main point.

With that, distinct units of supporting information (body paragraphs) should begin with a *topic sentence* which articulates a (supporting) subject and main point.

*Topic sentences* should begin each new unit of information, not necessarily each body paragraph.

## **Not all body paragraphs need topic sentences.**

In some cases, writers need to break up a body paragraph and then continue developing the same point.

When a long paragraph is broken up into two, the second paragraph does not need a topic sentence.

*Note: short essays of 3-5 pages don't often need to break up too many body paragraphs for the sake of length.*

The conclusion is at the end of the essay. It is necessary in order to close off the claim you present to your readers.

There are several methods of conclusion that can help leave your reader satisfied that all points have been covered.

Or...

Tell 'em what you're gonna tell 'em

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Tell 'em

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Tell 'em what you told 'em

The intro section of the essay introduces the readers to the claim that they will be reading. We often use intros even in casual speech:

“Hey, remember that movie we saw last week . . .”

By starting the conversation like this, you are letting your friend know what you’re about to talk about, preparing him for what you are about to say.

An essay’s intro functions in the same way. *It prepares readers for the specific discussion in which you will try to persuade them of a certain claim.* You’re preparing them for what you’re about to say.

## Tips For Writing Intros:

- grab your readers' attention and make them want to read on
- reveal the essay's central idea as expressed in the thesis
- guide readers to important ideas in the body
- provide background/explanation to help readers understand the essay's *purpose*

## The Body:

The body of the essay is, perhaps, the most important part since it is where you will support your thesis.

It is where you'll *prove* your thesis.

Just like a lawyer in a courtroom, you begin with an opening statement (intro with a thesis: my client is innocent or my client is guilty).

The body of the essay then becomes where you present the jury (your readers) with as much info as possible to convince them that your claim is valid.

## Convince Your Readers With Sufficient Proof:

The best way to prove your case is to do sufficient research and provide sufficient development on the subject you've chosen by using:

- summaries of & quotes from expert testimonies
- examples & illustrations
- compare and contrast
- definition
- statistics and data
- cause & effect or process
- personal insight and analysis

*Including well-developed body paragraphs is an important element in a successful essay.*

## The Conclusion:

Rather than simply ending an essay with the last body paragraph, you want to make sure to close off the argument for your readers so they feel that everything has been nicely wrapped up.

One way to distinguish between a body paragraph and a conclusion is that a conclusion contains no new supporting information.

Conclusion paragraphs simply review what you've already discussed or comment on info from body paragraphs.

## Tips For Writing Conclusions:

- leave your reader satisfied that the discussion is complete
- give readers something to think about or act upon
- remind readers of central idea or thesis of the essay
- do not include any new supporting information
- summarize and rephrase the most important support used in the body of the essay

*fin*