

What Goes into an Essay?

THE INTRODUCTION

This is the most important paragraph because the reader sees it first and it contains the thesis statement or the main idea/point of the essay. The first sentence should grab the reader's attention. The general information sentences clarify the topic sentence and add information or relevant background knowledge.

Grabber:

- grabs the reader's attention
- includes the name(s) of the author(s) and the title of the work(s)

General Information Sentences:

- clarify the topic sentence and add information or relevant background knowledge

Thesis Statement:

- one sentence that clearly and concisely indicates the subject of the essay

THE BODY

The body consists of 3 or more paragraphs that develop the idea or opinion presented in the thesis statement. Each paragraph contains one complete thought – based on the thesis statement – that is further developed through examples and explanation. Examples should come from the piece of literature being studied and/or secondary resources. Make sure to follow the guidelines for quoting and referencing. Also, remember to use transitional devices to connect ideas. Each body paragraph is a minimum of 5 sentences in length.

Each body paragraph should contain the following:

Topic Sentence:

- contains the paragraph's topic/ tells the reader what the paragraph is about (in relation to the thesis)

Supporting Sentences:

- provide relevant information with examples (proof) and explanation that support the topic sentence.

Concluding Sentence: summarizes the paragraph

THE CONCLUSION

The conclusion includes a restatement of the thesis sentence and touches on the main ideas presented in the body of the essay. It brings a tone of finality to the essay.

Summary or Reinforcement of the Main Points:

- This should not repeat word-for-word the main idea sentences, but sum up the discussion. Tie up any loose ends.

Clincher: a memorable statement designed to leave the reader feeling satisfied.