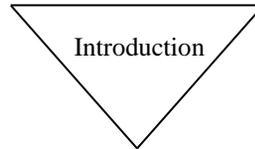


BASIC ESSAY FORMAT

There are different ways of structuring an essay to great success. This is merely one tried and tested format. Once you have learned and mastered this basic format, it becomes much easier to adjust the format to fit the needs of each individual writing assignment.

SECTIONS OF A BASIC ESSAY



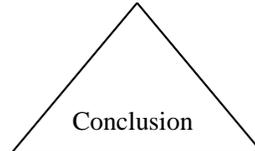
Introduction

Thesis Statement

Main Point

Main Point

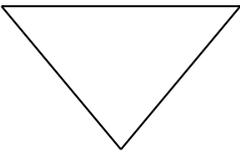
Main Point



Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

In an essay's introduction explain any background information it will be important for your readers to know before they get further into your paper. Often introducing the topic in a general way can be a good way of doing this. It is also important that you consider who will be reading your paper: Will it be just your professor? Are you hoping to get this paper published? Will your peers have to understand it?



THESIS STATEMENT

An important part of an introduction is the thesis statement. In essence, a thesis statement is the "so what?" to your paper. Why should anybody read your paper? Your thesis statement should explain that question as well as give the main idea of your paper. In or directly following the thesis statement, it's a great idea to list a few of your main points in the order they will appear in your body paragraphs. In this way, your readers can anticipate the next topic. It also helps enormously while organizing your paper since you can place your body paragraphs in the order in which they were introduced in your thesis statement.

MAIN POINTS

All your main points should start with strong topic sentences that directly tie back to the thesis statement. Main points should also be supported by one or more paragraphs which contain supporting details, cited research, and your description of your investigation of the topic. This analysis is crucial as it is what makes your paper your own. The last sentence of each paragraph should be used to transition from one paragraph to the next. Sometimes it can be helpful to look at each paragraph individually and decide why you put each one where you did. Do all of them make sense where they are?



CONCLUSION

The conclusion gives you a space to refresh your reader's memory of what your paper has been all about: explain how your paper has explained or resolved each of the main points you introduced in the thesis statement, revisit the thesis statement—restating it in other words than the words you used in your introduction.

