

**Introduction (Inverted pyramid, begin broadly, becoming narrow and focused)**

Understand what the **primary focus or theme** of the paper is and begin by discussing that in its broadest sense; this helps **orient the reader** to the more detailed discussion that follows. Moving through the introduction, begin to focus the material so that it leads into the specific **thesis statement**.

**Supporting Paragraphs (Defending the thesis)**

This is where the argument is made, **specific points** are delivered, and the different aspects of the thesis statement are examined in detail.

For example, with a thesis statement that reads “The ibex makes for a better pet than the porpoise on the basis of habitat, utility, and interaction,” the first paragraph would address the first assertion of the thesis—habitat—by discussing the problematic nature of keeping a porpoise-sized aquarium compared to fencing off one’s backyard.

The second paragraph would address the thesis statement’s second point by discussing the functionality of using an ibex to carry items on mountaineering excursions, contrasted with the porpoise’s limited application—and so on.

**Thesis Statement (Composed of several parts)**

The **thesis statement** is essentially the entire essay concentrated into one sentence; every point in the thesis statement will be elaborated on in the body paragraphs. Each component of thesis statement will be supported in one or more of the body paragraphs to explain, justify, and defend the assertions in the thesis. Conversely, **the major topics that are discussed in detail throughout the body of the essay should be represented in your thesis statement**.

**Conclusion (Pyramid, begin by reiterating the thesis, returning to a general context)**

One can think of a conclusion as an **inverted mirror image of the introduction**. It can begin with a reiteration of the thesis statement, **phrased differently** to avoid any glaring repetition, and then lead away from the specificity of the detailed arguments that compose the body of the essay, returning to a more general discussion of the topic. It is essential to remember that people often think rather linearly, so the last few lines they read will greatly **highlight any takeaways**. Demonstrate to the reader why what he or she has just read is important.