



Essay Structure

Warren County Community College
Instructional Support Center

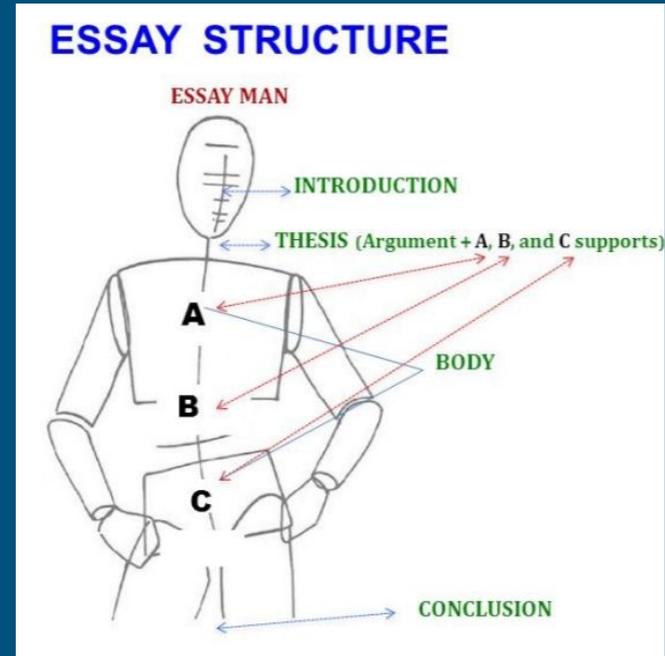


Summary of Essay Structure

Each essay you write will essentially be composed of three areas:

- **Introduction**
- **Body (body paragraphs)**
- **Conclusion**

These main areas should all be covered in your paper, and, as a preliminary step, in your outline.



Introductions

What is an introduction in an essay?

- An introduction will introduce the topic of your essay.

Types of introductions:

- Quotations
- Creative writing:
 - Anecdote
 - Short story
- Funnel

SOURCE OF ADVICE

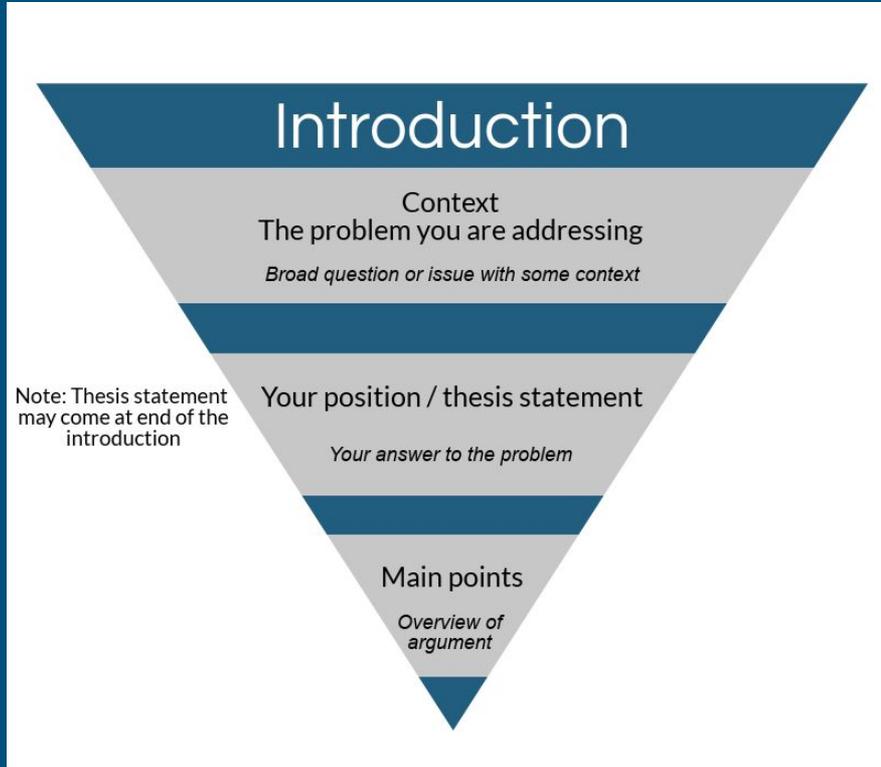
Good to know:

- An introduction can be more than one paragraph long.
- Your thesis DOES NOT need to be included (unless otherwise specified by your professor) in the first paragraph of your essay.



Introduction Formatting

Example:



Funnel introduction illustration

Thesis Statements

- **Where?** Included in the introductory section of your essay.
- **Why?** To guide the topical outline of your essay.
 - Summarizes the main points/goals of your essay.
- **Remember:** Make sure that your thesis is concise.

Example from Owl Purdue:

Example of a thesis that is too broad:

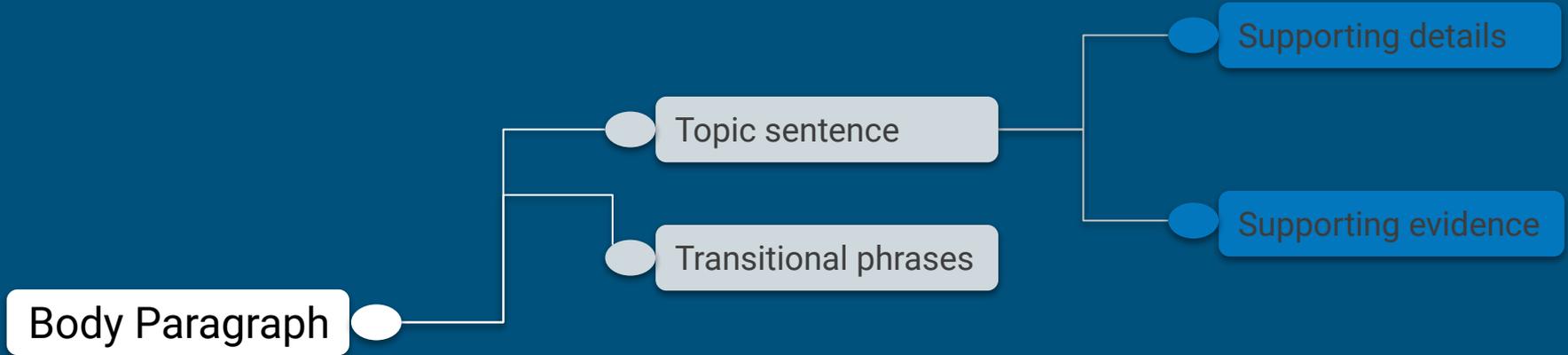
Drug use is detrimental to society.

Example of a narrow or focused thesis:

Illegal drug use is detrimental because it encourages gang violence.

Body Paragraphs

Overall flow of paragraph structure:



According to UNC, Chapel Hill

“transitions provide the reader with directions for how to piece together your ideas into a logically coherent argument. They are words with particular meanings that tell the reader to think and react in a particular way to your ideas. In providing the reader with these important cues, transitions help readers understand the logic of how your ideas fit together.”

Transitions

- Transitions help in guiding the reader through your essay.
- Without transitions, the different elements of your essay can not flow.
 - Your reader will be lost, otherwise.
- Your previous paragraph may provide the transition into your next paragraph by transitioning into the next subject matter.
 - i.e. Although a peanut butter and jelly may be a common lunch choice, there are more popular lunches among the youth of America.
 - Mac and cheese remains an all-time favorite among kids.
- Transitions may also be included within the topic sentence of your paragraph.
 - i.e. Mac and cheese remains an all-time favorite among kids.

LOGICAL RELATIONSHIP	TRANSITIONAL EXPRESSION
Similarity	also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly
Exception/Contrast	but, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet
Sequence/Order	first, second, third, ... next, then, finally
Time	after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then
Example	for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate
Emphasis	even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly
Place/Position	above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there
Cause and Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
Additional Support or Evidence	additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then
Conclusion/Summary	finally, in a word, in brief, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, to sum up, in summary

Conclusions

- Conclude your essay.
- Summarize the points made.
 - Restate your conclusion of your thesis.
- Types of elements to incorporate in conclusions:
 - A quote. (biography/ research claim)
- Restate research or include a simple statement supporting your claim.



Thank you!

Questions, comments, concerns?
