



# Essay Structure

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Warren County Community College  
Instructional Support Center



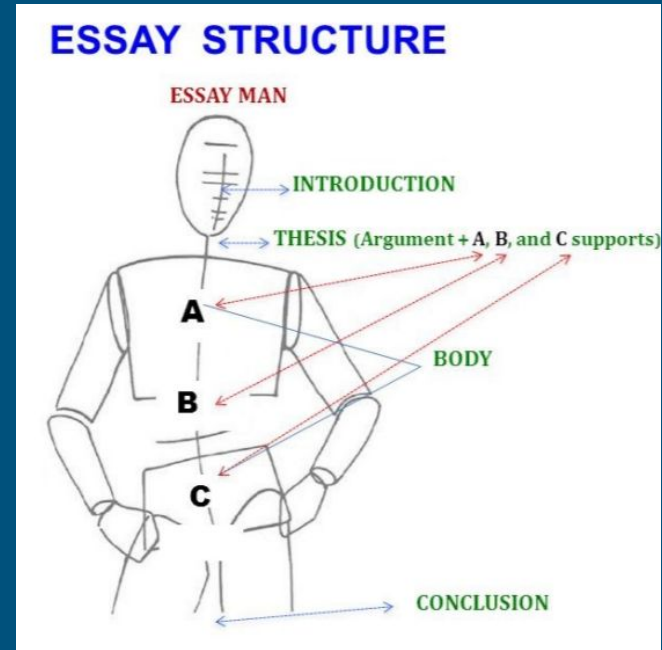
# Summary of Essay Structure

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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

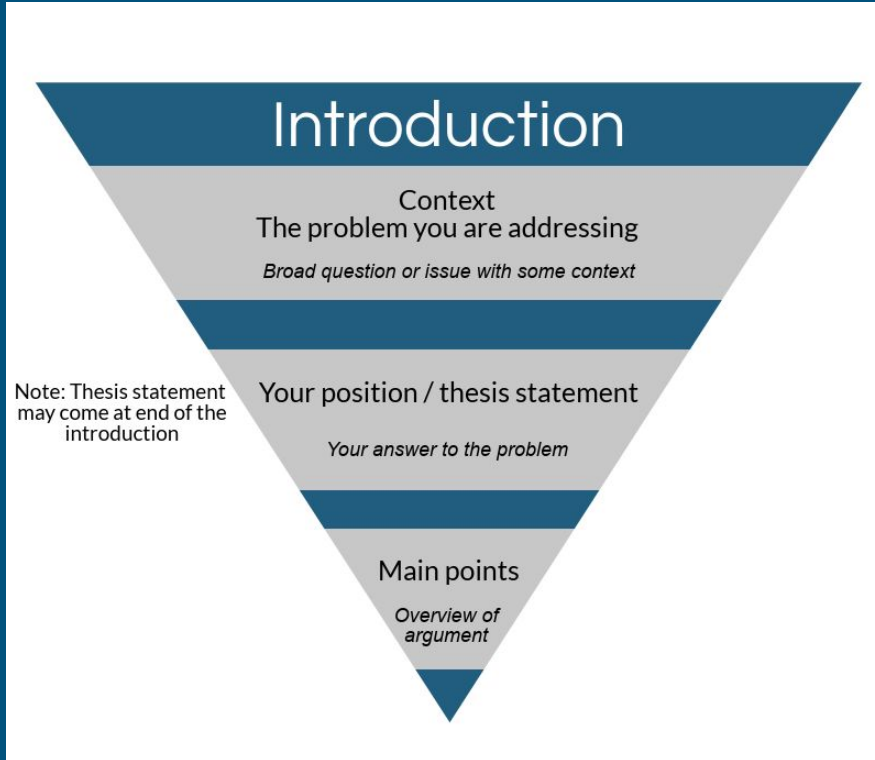
**SOURCE OF ADVICE**

## 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

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- **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.

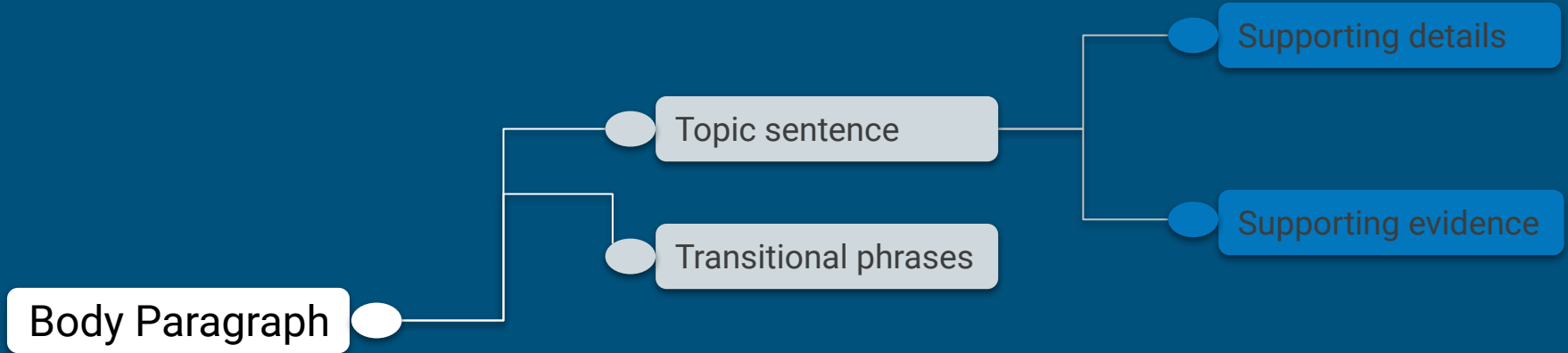
**Example of a narrow or focused thesis:**

Illegal drug use is detrimental because it encourages gang violence.

# Body Paragraphs

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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

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

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- 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?

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