

# Structure outline for essays

Introduction:	
Begin your paper with an <b>opening sentence</b> or <b>"hook"</b> about your topic that catches the reader's attention.	
Include <b>context</b> : provide the information the reader will need to understand the topic;	
State your <b>thesis</b> , your arguable position on the topic. <i>What side will you take? What will you prove in your paper? What are you going to explore?</i>	
Include this in every Body paragraph:	
Write a general <b>topic sentence</b> that states the main idea of the paragraph for your first body paragraph, or for one you are having difficulty organising.	
Write down the specific textual <b>evidence</b> or evidence you are using to support your thesis.	
<b>Analyse</b> your evidence: tell the reader what is significant or important about this evidence. <i>How does the piece of evidence support your thesis? Why did you choose to include it?</i>	
Don't forget a <b>transition sentence</b> : Connect each paragraph with a sentence or two that demonstrates how each idea leads into the next.	
Conclusion:	
Make connections for your reader in your <b>conclusion</b> . You should refer back to your thesis, but don't simply restate it. Use some of the following questions to guide you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Did you propose any solutions? Are there solutions yet to be discovered?</i></li><li>• <i>What questions still need to be answered?</i></li><li>• <i>What is the larger significance of the topic you chose to write about?</i></li><li>• <i>What should the reader do or think after reading your paper?</i></li></ul>	