Structure outline for essays



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| Introduction: |
| Begin your essay with an opening sentence or “hook” about your topic that catches the reader’s attention. |  |
| Include context: provide the information the reader will need to understand the topic. |  |
| State your thesis, your arguable position on the topic. What side will you take? What will you prove in your essay? What are you going to explore? |  |
| Include this in every Body paragraph: |
| Write a general topic sentence 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 evidence or evidence you are using to support your thesis. |  |
| Analyse your evidence: tell the reader what is significant or important about this evidence. How does the piece of evidence support your thesis? Why did you choose to include it? |  |
| Don’t forget a transition sentence: 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 conclusion. You should refer back to yourthesis, but don’t simply restate it. Use some of the following questions to guide you:* Did you propose any solutions? Are there solutions yet to be discovered?
* What questions still need to be answered?
* What is the larger significance of the topic you chose to write about?
* What should the reader do or think after reading your essay?
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