

I. Introduction Paragraph

- A. Present your topic.
- B. Give reasoning for why your topic is significant or interesting.
- C. Thesis statement: a brief statement that summarizes the main idea of your essay and is supported by evidence and/or examples.
 1. **Ex. for an informative essay:** “Although the era of slavery in America was traumatic for all slaves, it was traumatic in very different ways for male and female slaves, as there were certain advantages and disadvantages to being a slave of either sex.”
 2. **Ex. for an argumentative essay:** “MP3 technology is superior to CD technology because an MP3 player is more convenient for travel due to its size. MP3 files take up less storage space and can be safely stored on multiple devices, while CDs can be easily damaged.”
 3. **Ex. for a narrative essay:** “The ancient martial art of Jujitsu taught me greater self-discipline, patience, and how to defend myself and others against physical threats and assault.”

II. Body Paragraphs

Everything between the introduction and conclusion comprises the body of your essay. Make sure you include each of the following in your body paragraphs:

- A. Transition/topic sentence: consists of a **transition word or phrase** followed by the introduction of **the new paragraph’s subject**. The transition may even be a separate sentence.

Ex: “**Another** devastating effect of acid rain is **structure damage.**”
- B. Evidence that supports the paragraph’s point: Avoid plagiarism by citing any information that is not yours. Quotes, paraphrases, and summarizations must all be cited.
- C. Concluding statement: Don’t end with a quote or detail that you assume stands on its own. Draw a conclusion from the evidence you’ve presented.

III. Conclusion Paragraph

- A. Restate your thesis but change the wording, structure, or both.
- B. Summarize the main points of your body paragraphs.
- C. Mention possibilities for future study or discussion of this subject.

Ex: “More examination of how income and education level are related will hopefully bring a greater awareness of the cycle of poverty.”