



Basic essay structure

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Lecture 3

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Content

Introduction

Thesis statement

Body

- Topic Sentence 1
 - Supporting sentences
- Topic Sentence 2
 - Supporting sentences
- Topic Sentence 3
 - Supporting sentences
- Conclusion



- Before you write your essay, you should do some brainstorming to decide the main aspects that you want to cover in your essay.
- This information will help you to organize your essay and also help with writing your introduction and thesis statement.



Why do we write introductions and conclusions?

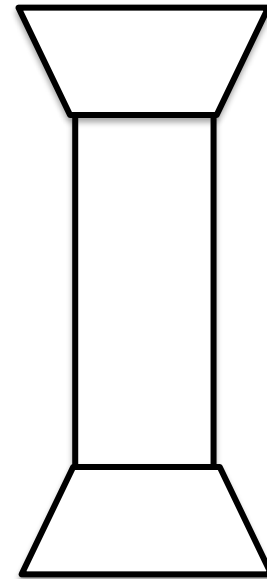
- They have given specific information but have left you with the feeling that the arguments/ideas have not been tied up effectively. Without an introduction and a conclusion, there is only the body of the essay to read. A good structure, however, will lead the reader into the body and then lead them out again, so that their final journey through the essay has been a satisfying one that feels complete.

What should an essay's structure look like?

Introduction (about 10%)

Main body (about 80%)

Conclusion (about 10%)





Introduction Paragraph

The introduction paragraph includes the following:

- A general overview or introduction about the topic, followed by more specific statements which lead to a thesis statement.
- It often includes background information about the topic or problem to be discussed.
- The last sentence is usually the thesis statement.



Introduction

An introduction starts with general information and becomes more specific. It may include several of the following:

- opening sentence
- background information on the topic
- the question rephrased in your own words
- an indication of why the topic is important or a gap in previous research
- definitions of important words and terms
- References
- an indication of your subtopics
- a thesis statement

Writing a clear thesis statement is one of the most important parts of an essay.

Weak thesis statement

There are three positive aspects to this situation.

Clearer thesis statement

- This situation has both positive and negative effects on the development of society, the control of population, and the effects of stress.
- If an innovative manager can build an appropriate enterprise culture, and has good communication skills, his company will be effective.

Example 1: Introduction

The debate over the right of access to chocolate has developed greatly over recent years. Whereas chocolate was formerly regarded as the domain of the wealthy, it has now come to be more widely seen as a right to which all are entitled. There are some, however, who see the diversity of approaches as being 'socially constructed,' meaning that different groups of people are conditioned, or expected, to want or need chocolate, even if this conflicts with their natural inclinations (Brown & White 2007). To date, while some research has focused on perceptions of chocolate in the general population, little research has been done into how chocolate is perceived by those involved in higher education. This essay will examine past and present attitudes to chocolate, and illustrate how the construct of 'chocolate' varies between two different social groups in Australia, namely university academic staff and students, in order to show that all should have a right to chocolate but not all may wish to avail themselves of this right.

General opening

Background information

Recent issues; definition; reference

Gap in knowledge

Thesis statement



Sample Introduction Paragraph

Although in recent years there has been an emphasis on eating healthy foods, there are still many people who struggle with this. There are numerous blogs, articles, and even television reports that discuss this issue; however, for most people, knowledge about what to eat is not enough. Making daily decisions of choosing healthy foods, keeping track of what is being eaten, along with encouragement from friends and family are the best ways to accomplish this goal.

Body Paragraph

Point 1: daily decisions to choose healthy foods

Topic sentence

More details: explanation, example, evidence

Conclusion

Point 2: keeping track of foods eaten

Topic sentence

More details: explanation, example, evidence

Conclusion

Point 3: encouragement from friends and family

Topic sentence

More details: explanation, example, evidence

Conclusion



Conclusion Paragraph

The conclusion paragraph will usually contain three or four sentences that review the main points given in the essay. It should summarize what you have said in your thesis statement.

Do not add anything new in your conclusion.

Nothing New!!!

Using a prediction or suggestion for further action is a good technique to use in a conclusion paragraph.

Conclusions

A conclusion starts with specific information and becomes more general. It may include several of the following:

- a summary of the main points
- your findings, if applicable
- your response to the question, together with possible solutions
- remaining problems and questions
- areas for future research
- a strong final sentence

Example 1: Conclusion

It can be seen, then, that chocolate is a right, as well as a social construct, but that different social groups within Australian higher education view the concept of 'chocolate' differently. Lecturers tend to prefer dark chocolate, while students indicate a preference for milk chocolate, even though both types of chocolate are available. More research is needed, however, to investigate gender and age differences in regard to these preferences. Worldwide, it is evident from the literature that despite greater transportability and increased production, in many locations chocolate is still only available to the privileged few. What is clear, therefore, is that although all should have a right to chocolate this is not the case in every society, and even those who have this right do not always choose to exercise it. Only when chocolate is finally available to everyone will it be possible to claim that chocolate is no longer restricted to the wealthy, but has become a right for every individual throughout the world.

Summary of argument

Findings

Area for future research

Remaining problems

Strong final sentence

Exercise

The following sentences are from the introduction and conclusion of the same essay. Separate them into two groups, introduction and conclusion, and put them in the correct order.

1. Despite these problems, it is possible for teachers to make a positive contribution to learners' knowledge in this important area.
2. The essay which follows gives a brief history of prepositional theory and discusses two major teaching strategies from a cognitive linguistic perspective.
3. The concept of definiteness in relation to articles remains, however, more problematic, and needs further investigation.
4. The evidence presented here suggests that learners do not use articles randomly, but that they choose articles according to whether or not the noun is countable.



Thank you for your attention!