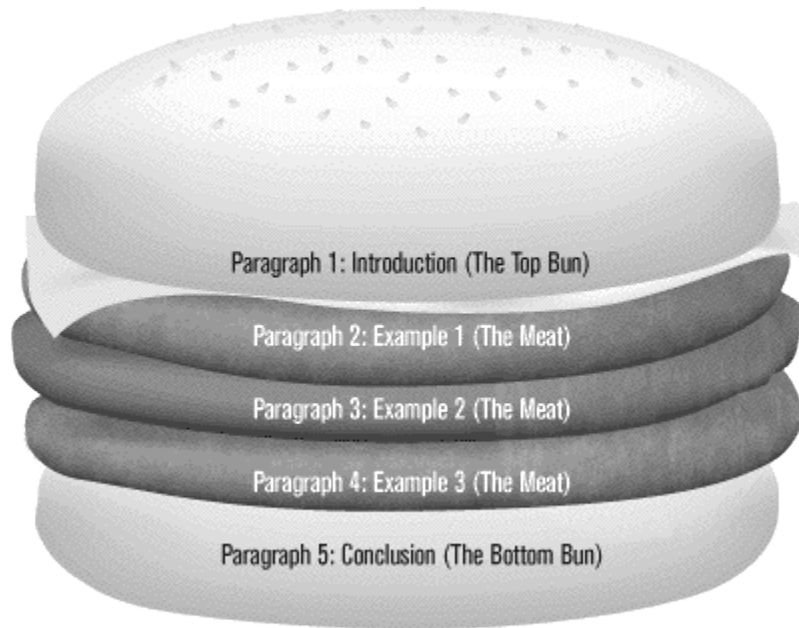


Essay structure



Introduction

The introduction sets the scene for the whole essay. You should not rewrite the essay question. Instead, the purpose of the introduction is to identify the topic, your point of view and the main reasons for that point of view.

A clear statement of the focus of the essay or the position being argued, your thesis statement, should also be included in the introduction. A thesis statement is a sentence that gives a clear idea of what the essay will be about (the content)¹.

All in all, The following components should be included in the introduction:

- General statement or orientation to topic
- Thesis statement
- Brief summary of the main topics/arguments/points made in the essay²

¹UniLearning. How is an essay structured? Retrieved 08.27.13, from

¹<http://unilearning.uow.edu.au/essay/4bi.html>

² Canterbury Church University. Planning and writing your essay introduction. Retrieved 08.27.13, from <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/support/student-support-services/students/sss/planning-and-writing-your-essay-introduction.asp>

Argument/Main Body

In the paragraphs following the introduction, you critically discuss—the main ideas supporting your position or response to the question. You use evidence from—scholarly readings to show—your understanding of the topic and your ability to use the ideas to inform your own thinking and response to the question.

Paragraph 1

The first sentence (the topic sentence) introduces the main idea of the paragraph. Other sentences develop the topic. Include relevant examples, details, evidence, quotations, references.

Paragraph 2 and other paragraphs

The first sentence links the paragraph to the previous paragraph then introduces the main idea of the paragraph.

Conclusion

The purpose of the conclusion is to summarise and make final evaluative comments on the ideas presented in the essay.

- Draw everything together
- Summarise the main themes
- State your general conclusions
- Make it clear why those conclusions are important or significant
- Do not introduce new material
- In the last sentence, sum up your argument very briefly, linking it to the title
- Set the issues in a broader perspective/wider context
- Discuss what you've failed to do – answers not clear, space limited
- Suggest further questions of your own³.

³ University of Canberra. Writing a conclusion. Retrieved 09.18.13, from <http://www.canberra.edu.au/studyskills/writing/conclusions>