

What is an Essay?

Several paragraphs long

One topic, just as a paragraph

Discussing too complex topic in several paragraphs

Tying or connect the paragraphs together by introduction and a conclusion

No more difficult than a paragraph, except it is longer.

The principles of organization are the same for both (paragraph and essay)

Unity:

a paragraph discusses one and only one main idea from beginning to end. For example, if your paragraph is about the advantages of having a Toyota car, discuss only that. Do not discuss the disadvantages

Coherence:

the sentences must hold together; that is, the movement from one sentence to the next must be logical and smooth, without sudden jumps.

There are two ways to achieve coherence:

1-Repeated key words

2-Transition signals

Transition Signals

1- To introduce an additional idea: in addition, furthermore, moreover, besides, also, too, and.

2-To introduce an opposite idea or contrast: on the other hand, in contrast, however, nevertheless, instead, still, and nonetheless, but, yet, although, while, whereas, though, even though..

3-mTo introduce a choice or alternative: otherwise, or, if, unless.

4- To introduce a restatement or explanation: in fact, indeed, that is .

5- To list in order: first, second, third, next, last, finally, the first, second, the next, last, final...

6- To introduce an example: for example, for instance

7- To introduce a conclusion or summary: clearly, in brief, in conclusion, indeed, in short, in summary

8- To introduce a result: accordingly, as a result, as a consequent, therefore, consequently, hence, thus, so

The Introductory Paragraph

It has two parts:

A- General statements

1- introduce the general topic of the essay

2- capture the reader's interests

B- Thesis statements

1- states the specific topic

2- may list subtopics or subdivisions of the main topics

3 - may indicate the pattern of organization of the essay

is normally the last sentence in the introductory paragraph

What is a thesis statement?

The *thesis statement* is the sentence that tells the main idea of the whole essay. It can be compared to a topic sentence, which gives the main idea of a paragraph. It usually comes at or near the end of the introductory paragraph.

Writing a strong thesis statement

- A thesis statement gives the author's opinion or states an important idea about the topic. It should give an idea that can be discussed and explained with supporting ideas:

The qualifications for getting into university in my country are unreasonable.

When studying a foreign language, there are several ways to improve your use of the language.

These are strong thesis statements. They can be discussed or explained.

- A thesis statement should not be a sentence that only gives a fact about the topic:
In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer months are warmer than the winter months.
This is not a strong thesis statement. It cannot be discussed or argued about.

- A thesis statement should not state two sides of an argument equally:
There are advantages and disadvantages to using nuclear power.
This could be a topic sentence, but it is not a thesis statement. It gives two sides of an argument without giving a clear opinion of support or disagreement. It could be revised like this:

Although there are some advantages, using nuclear power has many disadvantages and should not be a part of our country's energy plan.

This is a strong thesis statement. It clearly gives the writer's opinion about nuclear power.

Different Models of Introductory Paragraph

1 Funnel introduction

The funnel introduction begins with one or two very general sentences about the topic. Each subsequent sentence becomes increasingly focused on the topic until the last sentence, which states very specifically what the essay will be about. Writing a funnel introduction is like focusing a camera. You start with a wide picture and gradually narrow the focus so that just one object appears in the camera's viewfinder: your thesis statement.

Let's Go and read the following example !!!

Moving to a new country can be an exciting, even exhilarating experience. In a new environment, you somehow feel more alive. Seeing new sights, eating new food, hearing the foreign sounds of a new language, and feeling a different climate against your skin stimulate your senses as never before. Soon, however, this sensory bombardment becomes sensory overload. Suddenly, new experiences seem stressful rather than stimulating, and delight turns into discomfort. This is the phenomenon known as culture shock. Culture shock is more than jet lag or homesickness, and it affects nearly everyone who enters a new culture – tourists, business travelers, diplomats, and students alike. Although not everyone experiences culture shock in exactly the same way, many experts agree that it has roughly five stages.

2. Dramatic, interesting, or funny story introduction

A dramatic, humorous, or otherwise interesting opening will generate interest in the reader. It is important, after all, to capture the reader's attention. For process paper's it is often useful to begin with a description of a scene that establishes the need for a process explanation. Observe here how one student uses a description to set up a process essay.

3. Surprising Statistics or Facts Introduction

Got high blood pressure? Try a truffle. Worried about heart disease? Buy a bon-bon. It's the best news in years! Studies in two prestigious scientific journals say dark chocolate is good for you. It seems that eating a small piece of dark chocolate regularly can reduce the risk of heart disease because dark chocolate – but not milk chocolate or white chocolate – contains high amounts of flavonoids, powerful cholesterol-

fighting compounds. What is the next health food going to be? Ice cream? Sugar cookies? There are so many conflicting news stories about which foods are good for you that it is often difficult to make the right choices at the supermarket.

4. Historical Background Introduction

The Pilgrims who arrived in Massachusetts in 1620 came to find religious freedom. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, large numbers of African men and women were brought as slaves to work on large plantations in the South. Immigrants from northern and southern Europe came in the early nineteenth century to escape poor economic conditions at home. Later in the nineteenth century, the first immigrants from China came as contract laborers to build the railroads connecting East and West. In the twentieth century, political and economic refugees arrived from Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Indeed, the United States has seen immigrants come from many different parts of the world, and they have come for many different reasons. Their ability to adjust to life in their adopted land has depended on several factors.

Body Paragraphs

The body paragraph in an essay are like the supporting sentences in a paragraph. They are the place to develop your topic and prove your points. You should organize your body paragraph according to some sort of pattern, such as

Chronological order

Comparison/ contrast

or both

a. Logical division of Ideas.

(basic pattern for essays is logical division of ideas.)

In this pattern, you divide your topic into subtopics and then -
discuss each subtopic in a separate paragraph.

Logical division is an appropriate pattern for explaining causes, -
reasons, types, kinds, qualities, methods, advantages, and
disadvantages, as these typical college exam questions ask you to
do.

For Example: College questions are as the following: -

Economic Explain the three causes of inflation

Agriculture/ Landscape design Describe the basic types of
prepare soils and additives needed to
each type for planting.

U.S. History Discuss the causes of the U.S. Civil War.

Business explain the three main forms of business
organization

Health Sciences Describe the various classes of drugs
used to treat depression

. b. Three Keys to Organize Logical Division Essay

1-Divide your topic into subtopics, and then discuss each subtopic in
a separate paragraph.

2-Write a thesis statement that indicates logical division.

3-Use transitions between paragraphs to guide your reader from one
subtopic to the next.

Parallelism

Parallelism means that each item in a list or comparison follows the same grammatical pattern. If you are writing a list and the first item in your list is a noun, write all the following items as nouns also. If the first item is an –ing word, make all the others –ing words; if it is an adverb clause

Concluding Paragraph

The conclusion is your last chance to make your point clear.

The concluding paragraph consists of:

- A summary of the main points, or a restatement of your thesis in different words;
- Your final comment on the subject, based on the information you have provided.

The concluding paragraph should be introduced with a conclusion transition signal:

in conclusion, in summary, in brief, indeed