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 your  thesis, 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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