

Essay Structure

An essay has three parts: the introduction, the supporting paragraphs (body) and the conclusion. The diagram below shows the organization of an essay

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

1. _____

The introduction begins with a **hook statement**, a sentence that catches the reader's attention. It then gives **general statements** about the topic. The last sentence, the **thesis statement**, gives the writer's opinion about the topic. The writer uses three sub-topics to support his/her opinion.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. _____

The body paragraphs explain the writer's opinion with evidence. In each body paragraph, the writer introduces a sub-topic (from the thesis statement) and a main idea in a **topic sentence**. He/she then explains it in detail in the **supporting sentences**. To conclude the paragraph, the sub-topic is summarized in the **concluding sentence**. A writer often needs two to three paragraphs to explain each sub-topic.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. _____

The concluding paragraph is a summary of the entire research paper. It **restates the thesis** (the writer's opinion) and **summarizes** the main ideas from the body paragraphs. The writer then ends the paper with a **final thought** about the topic.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____