

Essay outline

Introductory paragraph

General opening statement

Your opening statement should

- pique the interest of the audience with a question or startling fact
- provide brief, factual background information

Thesis statement

Your thesis statement should

- state your point of view on a topic
- be concise
- clearly describe what your essay will prove

Body paragraphs

Paragraph #1: First supporting idea

Your first body paragraph should

- state the first supporting idea related to the thesis
- provide evidence and explanation for the first supporting idea
- end with a concluding statement that makes a transition to the next supporting idea

Paragraph #2: Second supporting idea

Your second body paragraph should

- state the second supporting idea related to the thesis
- provide evidence and explanation for the second supporting idea
- end with a concluding statement that makes a transition to the next supporting idea

Paragraph #3: Third supporting idea

Your third body paragraph should

- state the third supporting idea related to the thesis
- provide evidence and explanation for the third supporting idea
- end with a concluding statement that makes a transition to the concluding paragraph

Concluding paragraph

Your conclusion should

- restate your thesis
- summarize the ideas supporting your thesis
- make recommendations, demonstrate impact, and/or offer solutions

Reminder:

- You should provide evidence and explanations that your chosen audience can relate to.
- You are not necessarily restricted to three body paragraphs in an essay.
- Any external sources that you use need to be cited. It's helpful to list your sources as you research so that they are ready to be cited.