

An essay is an extended piece of writing that presents and supports a thesis or proposition.

- **Suggested structure for a standard essay:**

depends on the instructions

- **Introduction**

- Begin with a general statement that introduces the topic and shows its importance
- Provide some background information on the issue under discussion
- Create a well-developed thesis statement that reveals the main arguments

- **Body**

- Begin each body paragraph with a topic sentence
- Make sure each argument is supported with evidence (research findings, statistical data, personal observations, etc.)
- End each body paragraph with a concluding statement that restates the argument
- Add logical transitions between the sentences in the paragraph
- Include proper citations for the supporting evidence
- Ensure each body paragraph contains one clear argument

- **Conclusion**

- Restate the topic and its importance in a general fashion
- Revisit the thesis statement without going into detail and repeating the examples
- Outline future research possibilities / call for an action / provide an afterthought

Dos

- ✔ Include a thesis statement at the end of the introductory paragraph
- ✔ Support your arguments with examples
- ✔ Add linking devices to ensure a smooth flow of ideas
- ✔ Distribute the word count for each paragraph evenly
- ✔ Use formal language

Don'ts

- ✘ Restate the same idea in different words
- ✘ Compile miscellaneous ideas in one long paragraph
- ✘ End a paragraph with an in-text citation
- ✘ Include in-text citations/examples in the conclusion
- ✘ Use contracted forms of words