

# Structure of an Essay

## 1. Introduction of an essay

The introduction is important both to grab the reader's interest and to inform them of what will be covered in the essay. The introduction generally comprises 10–20% of the text. To learn [how to write an essay introduction](#), start by getting familiar with its most important goals.

### a. Hook your reader with interest and curiosity

The first sentence of the introduction should raise the interest of your reader. This sentence is sometimes called the hook. It might be a question, a quote, a surprising statistic, or a bold statement emphasizing the relevance of the topic.

Let's say you are writing an essay about the development of Braille (the reading and writing system used by visually impaired people). The hook could be something like this:

The invention of Braille marked a major turning point in the history of disability.

### b. Provide background and context on your topic

After you have hooked the reader, it is important to give context that will help your reader understand your argument. This might involve providing background information, giving an overview of important academic work or debates on the topic, and explaining difficult terms. Don't provide too much detail in the introduction—you can elaborate in the body of your essay.

### c. Define the objective and formulate the thesis statement

Next, you should define your central argument or thesis statement. The [thesis statement](#) provides focus and signals your position on the topic. It is usually one or two sentences long. An example of a thesis statement from an essay on Braille could look like this:

The idea of tactile reading was not entirely new; Louis Braille adapted and simplified existing methods to create the first writing system specifically for blind people. But its success depended on acceptance among sighted people before the social status of blindness could truly be transformed, and this process was shaped by broader debates about disabled people's place in society.

### d. Provide a map of the content

Finish the introduction with an overview of your essay's structure. The overview should provide the reader with a general idea of what each section of your essay explores.

## 2. Body of an essay

The body of your essay is where you make arguments supporting your **thesis statement**, provide evidence, and develop your ideas. Its central purpose is to present, interpret and analyze the information and sources you have gathered to support your argument.

### Paragraph structure

To give your essay a clear structure, it is important to **make use of paragraphs** and **headings**. This makes the content scannable and easy to digest. Each paragraph should be centered around just one argument or idea.

The purpose of each paragraph is introduced using **topic sentences**. The topic sentence forms a transition from the previous paragraph and introduces the argument to be made in this paragraph. **Transition words** can be used to create clear connections between sentences.

After the topic sentence, **present evidence** by providing the reader with data, examples or quotes. Be sure to **interpret and explain the evidence**, and show how the paragraph helps develop your overall argument.

## 3. Conclusion of an essay

The conclusion is the final paragraph of an essay. It should generally take up no more than 10–15% of the text.

A strong **essay conclusion**:

- - Draws connections between the arguments made in the essay's body
  - States the outcome of your arguments
  - Emphasizes the relevance and significance of the thesis statement for policy, academia or the wider world
  - Explores the broader implications and importance of the topic

A great conclusion should finish with a memorable or impactful sentence that emphasizes the importance of your work and leaves the reader with a strong final impression.

SOURCE: Taken and adapted from <https://www.scribbr.com/category/academic-essay/>