

The different parts of an essay

After we've looked into the typical structure of an essay, we now need to analyse the different parts in that structure.

There are basically three different parts to every essay:

4. Introduction
5. Topic paragraphs
6. Conclusion

Once you know what exactly needs to be included in each of these parts, you will find that writing a good essay isn't that difficult after all, so let's get right into it.

Introduction

The introduction of an essay might be its most important part. Here, you set the tone while at the same time give the reader the first idea of what to expect in your text.

There are basically three things that every good introduction needs:

- Context
- Paraphrasing of the topic (using different words to say the same thing)
- Something that creates interest

Keep in mind that the goal of your introduction is to pique the readers interest for what you are going to say. It is there to give an overview and to serve as a kind of appetizer.

The best way to look at it, however, is to go through a practical example. Remember the task from earlier?

In your English class you have been talking about the environment. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using all the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

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Every country in the world has problems with pollution and damage to the environment.
Do you think these problems can be solved?

Notes

Write about:

1. transport
2. rivers and seas
3. (your own idea)

I've written an introduction for this essay so let's see what I've come up with.

“More and more countries and cities struggle with dirty air and water and while it is difficult to find a solution to these issues, I believe that there are ways to improve the situation and to protect the environment.”

The first thing you should notice is that my introduction is not very long. You always have to keep in mind that your whole essay can only contain between 140 and 190 words. Therefore, we need to make sure that our introduction does not exceed 40 words.

I've also coloured different parts of my introduction. The red part puts the topic in context, the blue part paraphrases the topic while the green part is there to create some interest. I've done this by giving my opinion so the reader wants to find out how I came to my conclusion. Instead of giving your opinion you could also ask an interesting question, but I find that the question model is taught too often in English classes so for me, avoiding a question in your introduction can actually make it more interesting for the examiner.