

Structure of an essay

by [R BEHARI](#) - 23 Oct 2017 @ 16:13

Attachments: 

Paragraphs give structure to a piece of writing. They are a way to organize your thoughts, and to give clarity to your ideas. Paragraphs tell readers where one area of discussion begins and ends.

In an essay, there are usually three different types of paragraphs:

1. The introduction sets up the essay topic. It contains the thesis statement and background information. All definitions and concepts are explained here. The objective is also stated in the introduction. The objective of the paper is the reason given for writing the paper. By stating your objective, you're telling the reader exactly what you're hoping to demonstrate, and exactly what they can hope to learn or be convinced of.
2. Then body paragraphs build the content of your essay. Each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence. This indicates what the main focus of the paragraph will be. This also aligns with the thesis statement. Good topic sentences generally work to create paragraph and paper unity but could be stronger with some revision to help clarify the specific point you're trying to develop. Every paragraph should be relevant to the main idea you presented in your thesis. One very important way to do this is to write clear topic sentences that show readers the relationship between each paragraph and the thesis statement. You want only one main idea per paragraph because it gives you space to develop the idea and show readers the significance of what you're saying to the overall idea of the paper. The topic sentence is what makes this happen. Without a clear topic sentence, your thoughts may begin to wander, and the paragraph will become unfocused and, sometimes, meaningless.
3. Lastly, the conclusion sums up the points. Conclusions complement the introduction but aren't just a repetition of the same information found there. What conclusions need to do is reinforce the ideas you've developed in the paper's body. Once you've done that, give your readers closure by helping them understand the importance or implications of those main ideas. Readers expect conclusions to "look back," showing the ground covered in the essay. Think about the main ideas you want to reiterate to readers and include those points in the conclusion. Don't repeat ideas word-for-word, though: restate them so readers see how all ideas come together to form a solid, final point.

For instance, let's say I was writing an essay on patriarchy in *Nervous Conditions*. In my introduction, I would explain what patriarchy is and how it applies to the book. I would also include background on the book, such as who wrote it, when it was written and the basic plot. I would end the introduction with a thesis statement, previewing what my body paragraphs will discuss. For instance, if my thesis statement is, "Patriarchy can be seen in the book through Babamukuru's relationship with Tambu, Nyasha and Maiguru. Therefore, my first body paragraph will be about Babamukuru and Tambu. My second paragraph body paragraph will deal with Babamukuru and Nyasha and finally, my last body paragraph will look at his relationship with Maiguru. In the conclusion, I would reiterate the main points from my whole essay.

The thesis statement

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The thesis statement is a crucial part of an essay. The thesis statement needs to prepare readers for the content of your essay. This information should align with the topic sentences of your essay to provide a preview of your content to readers. Topic sentences are the first sentence of each paragraph. This sentence guides what the paragraph will be about.

The thesis statement shows the objective of the essay as a whole. The objective of the paper is the reason given for writing the paper. By stating your objective, you're telling the reader exactly what you're hoping to demonstrate, and exactly what they can hope to learn or be convinced of.

All writing, no matter what form it takes, has a primary topic. In a well-developed academic essay, this primary topic is usually expressed in a thesis statement. Typically, the thesis statement is the last sentence in your introductory paragraph.

The thesis statement should dictate what you discuss in your essay. Each point should align with a topic sentence so readers know exactly what is coming up in your content. Here is a thesis statement on symbolism in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald:

- As much as the symbol of the green light at the end of Daisy's dock in the novel represents Gatsby's hopes and dreams for the future, it also represents the past, as well as the power of money.

The statement tells the reader what issues will be discussed in the essay. This thesis gives the reader three specific points to read about, and the three body paragraphs will each deal with one. For example, the first body paragraph would align with this as it would focus on Gatsby's hopes and dreams for the future.