

Introduction to scientific writing

– Writing an essay –

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Introduction: What an essay is?

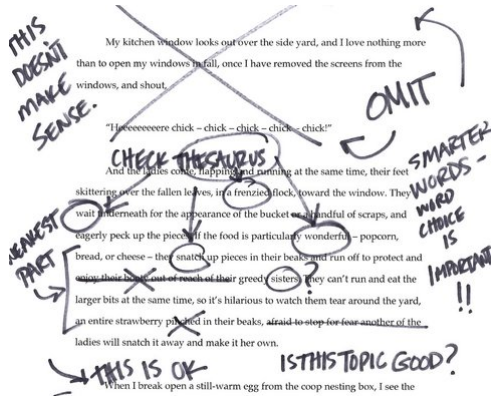
Definition

An essay is a short piece of writing on a particular subject.

Writing an academic essay means fashioning a coherent set of ideas into an argument. Because essays are essentially linear, —they offer one idea at a time—, they must present their ideas in the order that makes most sense to a reader. Successfully structuring an essay means attending to a reader's logic.

The structure

So the body of the essay relay in the information that the readers needs and the order in which they need to receive it.



Common structures

The most common estructura for an essay is:

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion

Nevertheless, this sections could include as much subsections as author needs.

General advice

- **Start early:** The author must start early the essay. This gives the opportunity to draft and redraft your essay.
- **Collecting the material:** It is important to get the right information. Thus author must run to the library, books, interview someone or everything that he needs.
- **Keep a notebook:** Author must write down ideas, discussions, quotations or examples. If don't the author probably forget them.
- **Record your sources:** Failure to do this will result in wasted time relooking for information, lost of information and some times frustration.

-[1]-

Plagiarism



Plagiarism V.S. Citation

The author is doing plagiarism when you copy material from sources, either using the original text or your own words, without correctly acknowledging these sources.

If the author does not cite, the author is stealing other people's work and ideas

You will learn how to do citation further [2]

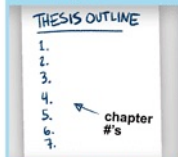
Introduction
Essay structure
Let's do it

How to start?
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Introduction
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Conclusion

WRITING YOUR THESIS OUTLINE

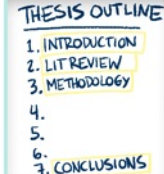
NOTHING SAYS "I'M ALMOST DONE" TO YOUR ADVISOR/
SPOUSE/PARENTS LIKE PRETENDING YOU HAVE A PLAN

STEP 1 Aim for a respectable number of chapters:



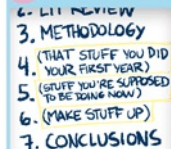
5 = "That's IT??"
6-7 = "Not bad"
8+ = "Are you crazy??"

STEP 2 Fill in the "freebies":



You're half way done!

STEP 3 Make up titles for the "meat" chapters:



(It'll be years before you actually have to work on that later chapter, and by then your thesis topic will have changed anyway)

STEP 4 Voilà! You just bought yourself another two years



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- and try to group your ideas in to a introduction, a middle and conclusion.

The thesis

Definition

A **thesis** is a statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved.[3]

Definition

A **hypothesis** is a supposition or proposed explanation made on the basis of limited evidence as a starting point for further investigation[3]



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- state your thesis in a sentences or two, then write another sentence to explain **why** it's important to make that claim[5];
- and the thesis statement should be in the introduction section.

Introduction

The introduction is the first contact with the reader, thus the author must provide the next information:

- ① An introduction should contain some comment on the topic of the essay,
- ② perhaps definitions are needed,
- ③ also state which aspects of the topic you intend to deal with and why,
- ④ remember you are not writing a book, so you need to select a few main arguments to support your answer to the question;
- ⑤ and your introduction should consist of a guide to the essay giving the reader a clear idea of what will follow

The body of the essay

- 1 The body of the essay will take each of these main points and develop them with **examples and illustrations**, using clearly defined paragraphs.
- 2 This is where you will need to think about the structure of your essay and make sure you follow a clear path through to your conclusion.

The conclusion

- ① Your conclusion will summarise your main ideas.
- ② It might also be appropriate to give a firm or tentative answer to the question.
- ③ Or you may have chosen a question where you need to suggest wider implications, or future trends.
- ④ You could also suggest areas worthy of further consideration.
- ⑤ It is in this section that you can introduce your own views - as long as they are based on the arguments you have developed earlier.





-  Birmingham city university: Center for academic succes, “How to Write an Essay,” 2011.
-  Birmingham city university, “Using sources: quoting, paraphrasing, and avoiding plagiarism.” .
-  Oxford thesaurus of english dictionary
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-  Harvard College Writing Center, “Essay Structure.” [Online].