

## Parts of an Essay

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The general components of an essay include an **introduction**, a **thesis statement**, **topic sentences**, and a **conclusion**.

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An **introduction** paragraph or paragraphs introduces the reader to the subject of your essay. It includes the hook, the bridge, and your **thesis statement**. The hook is used to interest your reader beginning your paper; it can be an interesting fact, quote, or statement about your subject. The bridge then provides your reader with any background information necessary to understand the topic or theme of your essay. The order in which you introduce information is the order in which you should write about it in your body paragraphs. Finally, and most importantly, is your **thesis statement**. This sentence, which should come at the end of your introduction paragraph, sums up the main point of your essay. There are several types of thesis statements depending on what kind of paper you are writing.

### Types of Thesis Statements:

**Argument of Fact Essay:** Your thesis should argue a popular misconception (a popular opinion that is false).

**Compare and Contrast Essay:** Your thesis should identify the fundamental similarities and differences between two things.

**Critical Response Essay:** Your thesis should share your opinion about a certain article you've read.

**Empirical Study Essay:** Your thesis should explain how the data you collect answers your research question.

**Informative Essay:** Your thesis should state the main facts about something you have studied.

**Rhetorical Analysis:** Your thesis should argue the effectiveness of rhetorical strategies in a text or compare/contrast the strategies in two texts.

**Synthesis Essay:** Your thesis should offer a solution to a problem or question based on evidence from several different sources.

A **topic sentence** is the first sentence of a body paragraph which introduces the main point of the paragraph. To create a strong thesis, it may help to begin writing topic sentences for each point you want to discuss in your essay. Your topic sentences should always relate to the point of your thesis statement. **Body paragraphs** make up the bulk of your essay; they include the primary argument formed from all the evidence you've gathered throughout your research. Body paragraphs need to stay focused on the topic expressed in the topic sentence.

The **conclusion** of your essay should be concise; restate and reword your thesis to reiterate your main point. Very briefly Summarize the evidence you gathered in one or two sentences. Do not introduce new information. You may provide a few final sentences that speculate about the future impact of your subject or about your plans to further research your subject.