

The LSS 'How to' Series

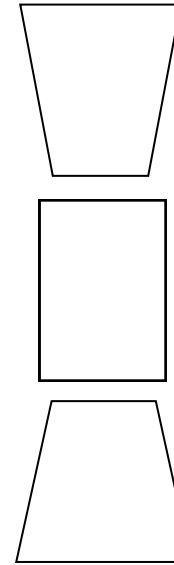


B3 The Structure of an Essay

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<http://www.iadt.ie/services/institute-student-services/learning-supports>

The basic structure of an essay could be shown like this:



An introduction

A main body

A conclusion

For more on introductions and conclusions, see that guide on the website. In this guide, you will see how these pieces fit together to form a complete essay.

The Parts of the Essay

The **introduction** serves to give the reader an idea of the main topic and the way that the essay will cover it, including the contents of following sections or chapters.

The **main body** is the ‘meat’ of the essay, providing arguments in support of your thesis and examples or references to back up those arguments.

The **conclusion** wraps up your essay by summarizing or reminding the reader of the main points you have made. The conclusion can also serve the very important purpose of reminding the reader why your topic is important.

Tips on effective essay structure

- Have a strong thesis statement and make sure that everything in your essay is supporting that thesis statement.
- Make sure each paragraph or section is unified around a single main idea.
- Make sure that all of the arguments or examples in the main body of the essay support or explain your thesis statement.
- If you’re having trouble figuring out what order to make your points in, think about how you would explain the topic to a friend. What do they need to know first? How would you explain your main point?
- For more on introductions and conclusions, see handout C2 on the website.