

ESSAY STRUCTURE

The following structure is the one most commonly used for essays. However, if you are told by your lecturers to use a different structure, you must do so.

SECTION	CONTENTS OF THE SECTION
INTRODUCTION	<p>The contents of the introduction are common to most essays. In this order, they are:</p> <p>As an opener, restate the essay title in your own words.</p> <p>Tell your reader the main sections of your middle section, in same order as they come in that section (like a contents list). Don't tell your reader what you are going to argue – that comes in middle section and conclusion of your essay.</p> <p>If necessary, define any jargon or technical words.</p> <p>State any parameters or limitations of the essay (for example, the period of time the essay covers; or something you have deliberately chosen to omit, and why).</p> <p>If the essay title gives you a choice (for example "Choose two theories of economic growth ..."), state which ones you have chosen and say why.</p> <p>If necessary, outline any relevant background to your essay, to help put your arguments into context for your reader.</p>
MIDDLE SECTION (OR MAIN BODY)	<p>This section develops your arguments and presents the supporting evidence for them.</p> <p>Its structure varies according to the individual essay title. One example might be:</p> <p>Theory 1 – arguments for and against, including an evaluation of the evidence Theory 2 – arguments for and against, including an evaluation of the evidence</p> <p>A comparison of the two theories in the light of the above evaluation.</p>
CONCLUSION	<p>Your conclusion should contain <u>no</u> new material. The contents of the conclusion are common to most essays. In this order, they are:</p> <p>Briefly summarise the main points and arguments you have presented in the middle section of your essay.</p>

<p>Conclusion continued</p>	<p>If the essay title demands it, draw your conclusion(s), based on the evidence you have presented in your middle section.</p> <p>State why your conclusions may be significant or important, and tell your reader any implications they may have.</p>
<p>LIST OF REFERENCES</p> <p>Related topic:</p> <p>Referencing and avoiding plagiarism [link]</p>	<p>List the sources of information you have drawn on for your essay, according to your department's referencing guidelines.</p>

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