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The Essay

**An essay** is a piece of writing whose topic is too complex to discuss in one paragraph. Therefore, the topic must be divided into several paragraphs, one for each major point.

The structure of the essay may be illustrated:

1. An introductory paragraph. It consists of
2. General statement. You may be used:
3. Quotation strategy;
4. Question strategy; or
5. Statement followed by facts and statistics
6. Thesis statement
7. A body (at least one, but usually two or more paragraphs). It consists of several supporting paragraphs that develop the main idea mentioned in thesis statement;
8. A concluding paragraph. The essay ends with a conclusion that summarizes the main poin.

Basic plan of a typical five-paragraph Essay

An Introductory Paragraph **Background information**

1. Get reader’s attention using: facts and statistics, or quotations, or anecdotes, or questions; and
2. **Thesis statement**: state purpose and introduces main points, eg 3.

A Body Paragraph **First body paragraph**

1. **Topic sentence:** states first main point; and
2. Provides supporting details.

**Second body paragraph**

1. **Topic sentence**: states second main point; and
2. Provides supporting details.

**Third body paragraph**

1. **Topic sentence**: states third main point; and
2. Provides supporting details.

A Cloncluding Paragraph **Conclusion**

Makes final comments by:

1. Summarizing main points, or
2. Drawing a conclusion, or
3. Making a prediction, or
4. Offering a solution.