

# How To Write An Essay: Structure

hello I'm Ariel and welcome to my series on how to write an essay in today's episode we're talking about structure this series is brought to you by Squarespace. structure it sounds really poor it may be kind of is but it is, incredibly important that the frame of your essay is great. that the content in it can really stand out if you kind of ignore structure if you kind of try and make up your own path you really risk that your ideas will not be as impactful and effective as they can be you may have heard of the five paragraph essay this is a very commonly taught structure in high school in North America in university essay writing you'll never have a five paragraph essay it's too short and reductive however there's something we can take from this structure that's incredibly helpful starting with the top inverted triangle you have your introduction this is a great way to think about how you want to start with your broader ideas but really narrow them until the end of your introduction where you'll have your thesis statement you could have your thesis statement in other parts of your introduction but your safest bet and the way that's going to be probably the most effective is to put your thesis statement right at the end of your introduction next you'll move into your body paragraphs but let's erase this idea that you only have three paragraphs and instead just put this as your body paragraphs in general in your body is where you develop and prove your argument this is where the this is the battleground importantly you need to make sure that each of your paragraphs is cohesive and full and actually let's zoom in and look at paragraph structure a paragraph should be structured as carefully as your overall essay it should begin with a topic sentence what is the point of this paragraph it should then contain your evidence what are you talking about and where is the proof that it is true you should then Blayne your evidence never just plop evidence in unexplained and random and then have a concluding statement something that links your entire paragraph back to your thesis statement.

That your entire essay is cohesive a common problem with the body of an essay is paragraphs that don't make sense paragraphs that are inconclusive paragraphs that dangle etc what you want to do is think of each paragraph as a carefully structured body of its own and finally we have the conclusion which comes from a tapered edge you've just gone from the specifics of restating your thesis and you're going to broaden back out and what you really want to think about in your conclusion is the question. what now is your opportunity in the conclusion to let everyone know why it mattered that they read your essay in the first place what has your argument helped with and finally and very importantly for your structure is citation it's important that before you start writing your essay you confirm with your professor or your teaching assistant what type of citation method they want is it MLA is it Chicago is it APA whichever method it is make sure that you understand that beforehand because it will impact the way that you write your essay are you allowed footnotes should you be constructing a bibliography or a work cited this is hugely important to the way that your essay is going to look at the end where do you put your title should it be at the top of your page or should it be on a title page and I've also made an entire episode about evidence and citation. check that out too to help with the overall structure of your essay there's three things you should keep in mind number one topic sentences they're extremely helpful and important for the clarity clarity of your essay clarity is, important that your audience and your reader is able to move from idea to idea understanding your thought process secondly is transition sentences and phrases these will help link your arguments together you don't want your essay to feel like a bunch of random ideas link them together with words like additionally or therefore [stanford supplement essays](#) these are the words that will make your entire argument. together and the third thing is that make sure everything you say everything you ever put in your essay is somehow linking back to your thesis statement.

I have a whole episode on the importance of thesis statements on how to craft them but for now just make sure that your entire structure is bolstering and helping your thesis statement which is just the compass the anchor of everything in your essay. I want to give a huge thanks to Squarespace for sponsoring this series Squarespace is a really great website where you can make websites very meta Squarespace has really beautiful templates that you can use to easily build a website it's an all-in-one platform. you never have to like download random things and figure things out it's all there for you they have amazing 24/7 customer support if you ever do hit a problem you can go to Squarespace com forward slash Ariel to get a free trial and 10% off your first purchase which is very cool down below let me know what are you currently writing an essay on and make sure to check out the other videos in this series on thesis statements citations and evidence and tips and tricks. I hope that you found this video helpful you.