

Basic Essay Template

Introduction:

- **Introduce the reader to the subject**, presenting basic information like author(s), title(s), terminologies, and key concepts needed to understand the claim/thesis.
-Include only the most necessary information here. Keep this short and sweet!
- **State the thesis/opinionated claim.**
-The claim must be written in very clear and purposeful language because everything in the essay will tie back to and support the words and ideas in this one sentence.

Body Paragraphs:

- **Begin with a topic sentence** that presents an idea that is both unique to that paragraph and related to the essay's claim/thesis.
-A purposeful topic sentence will help you write a paragraph with purpose.
- **Provide context** to set up the forthcoming textual evidence/excerpt.
-Be sure the reader understands who is involved, where and when events occur, and the key circumstances surrounding the excerpt.
- **Integrate textual evidence** in the form of direct quotations and paraphrased details into the essay's prose.
-Quoted evidence cannot stand alone! It must be made part of your writing.
-Be sure to cite all sources using MLA parenthetical citations.
- **Argue the topic sentence's** (and thus the claim's) validity by logically connecting the *specific* language and ideas of the evidence with the *specific* language and ideas of the topic sentence and claim.
-This is where you show off what you have learned about the subject matter. Don't cut corners here!
- **Provide transitions** between new ideas and evidence
- **Conclude your paragraph** by tying key ideas and evidence back to the topic sentence.

Conclusion:

- **Reconnect the big ideas** and key evidence from each paragraph, expressing how they all work together to support the essay's claim/thesis.
-Do not simply restate the same language from your introduction! A conclusion must represent the new understanding you have expressed through your essay's evidence and argument.
- **Leave the reader with an understanding** of the value and significance of the essay's thesis and supporting details.
-Why do the ideas expressed in this essay matter? You must be able to answer this question.