

OWLS Writing Guides: ESSAY BLUEPRINT



USE THIS FORM TO PLAN YOUR ESSAY. Most essays include at least three body paragraphs. Many topics require more lengthy development than this blueprint indicates. Modify this form as needed to suit the requirements for your particular assignment.

INTRODUCTION (Normally one paragraph)

1. Opening idea--anecdote, fact, quotation, question, definition, or other statement—that gets the reader’s attention and builds interest in the topic:

2. Context and necessary background information about the topic:

3. Thesis statement that makes an arguable assertion about the topic and (optionally) previews the paper’s several subtopics:

BODY PARAGRAPH ONE (Supports the first aspect of your thesis.)

1. Topic sentence (TS) that clearly states this paragraph’s main idea:

2. Supporting evidence (reasons, details, examples, facts) and explication that develop the TS idea:

3. Closing idea that finishes the discussion:

BODY PARAGRAPH TWO (Supports the second aspect of your thesis.)

1. Topic sentence (TS) that clearly states this paragraph's main idea:

2. Supporting evidence (reasons, details, examples, facts) and explication that develop the TS idea:

3. Closing idea that finishes the discussion:

BODY PARAGRAPH THREE (Supports the third aspect of your thesis.)

1. Topic sentence (TS) that clearly states this paragraph's main idea:

2. Supporting evidence (reasons, details, examples, facts) and explication that develop the TS idea:

3. Closing idea that finishes the discussion:

CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH

Closing comments that bring the essay to a satisfying close. You might return to your thesis idea to emphasize your main point as you close, but don't merely restate your thesis. Or you might refer back to your opening ideas in light of the argument you've just presented, as a way of framing your discussion.