



LANGUAGE ARTS 8

ESSAY STYLE & STRUCTURE

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INTRODUCTION (BEGINNING) . . .

- ❖ Guides the reader into your writing by introducing the topic by using a “hook.”
 - ❖ A “hook” is an interesting fact, quote, analogy, or question that catches the reader’s interest.
- ❖ Provides some background information on the topic you are writing about.
 - ❖ Ideas within the introduction should be general enough for the reader to understand the main purpose of the writing.
- ❖ Includes a thesis statement or statement of purpose that specifically informs the reader what the main idea or purpose of the writing will be.
 - ❖ The thesis statement sets limits on the topic and indicates the organization of what you are going to write about. You can think of it as a road map for the entire piece of writing.

BODY (MIDDLE) . . .

- ❖ Supports the main points presented in the thesis or statement of purpose by starting with a topic sentence.
 - ❖ Each point is developed by one or more paragraphs and supported with specific details.
- ❖ Specific details can include support from research, experiences, your own analysis and discussion of the topic.
 - ❖ The details tie ideas together and draws conclusions that support the main idea of your writing as specifically related to your thesis or statement of purpose.
- ❖ Includes a transition sentence that connects the ending of one paragraph to the next paragraph.
 - ❖ are used to help the writing flow from one main idea of your topic to the next. Transitions can be one or two words (“first,” “next,” “in addition”).

CONCLUSION (END) . . .

- ❖ Brings together all the main points of your writing.
 - ❖ by briefly summarizing the main points you made in your writing.
- ❖ It refers back to the thesis statement or statement of purpose
 - ❖ By rewriting the thesis or statement of purpose using other words.
- ❖ Leaves the reader with a final thought and sense of closure.
- ❖ In the conclusion, new topics or ideas that were not develop din the paper should not be introduced.