

Basic Structure of an Essay

• Introduction:

- *Thesis statement* explaining the topic of the paper and the position on the topic.
- Names the *source(s)* used
- List the *focus points* of the paper.

• Body Paragraphs:

- *Focus statement* for each paragraph of what it is about (for the focus points).
- Must have *evidence* to support the focus statement.
- *Commentary* on the evidence to connect it to the focus statement.
- *Transition sentences* to each new paragraph.

• Conclusion:

- Brief re-statement of the thesis statement.
- Brief re-statement of the focus points.
- Overall conclusion of topic.