



read. Academic writing, however, in which students practice supporting and developing their ideas, requires longer, more structured paragraphs.

Academic Essays	Professional Essays
formal structure	informal structure
thesis overt	thesis sometimes implied
topic sentences overt	topic sentences sometimes implied
paragraphs well developed	short paragraphs used to retain attention

From Paragraph to Essay

The overall design or **form of the essay** is similar to the paragraph. Both the essay and the paragraph develop a **main idea** with supporting ideas and end the writing with a conclusion. However, the essay uses paragraphs to support the main idea and conclude the writing whereas the paragraph uses sentences. Moreover, the essay presents the main idea or thesis statement at the end of the first paragraph, which is called the **introduction**. The support for the main idea comes in paragraphs in the **body** of the essay. Finally, the essay is summed up in the last paragraph, called the **conclusion**.

Paragraph	Structure	Essay
Topic sentence (one sentence)	←—— MAIN IDEA ——→	Thesis (1–2 sentences at the end of the introduction)
Supporting sentences	←—— BODY ——→	Supporting paragraphs
Conclusion sentence	←—— CONCLUSION ——→	Conclusion paragraph

Peer Example



Dan

Topic Sentence
(Main Idea)

Supporting Ideas:
News
Background info

“ I wrote an essay on the newspaper by expanding ideas in my paragraph about the importance of the newspaper. I used the same main idea in my essay that I used in my paragraph, and I chose as body paragraphs the three areas from my paragraph that seem the most important kinds of information that the newspaper provides. I was then able to give much more specific detail about these kinds of information than I was in the one paragraph I wrote about the newspaper. Read my paragraph, and then see how I expanded it into the essay that follows. ”

Read All About It

The daily newspaper provides a valuable source of information. As everyone knows, a town's daily paper reports the **news** from around the world. Readers gain knowledge of world affairs by reading about wars starting and stopping, the national economy, and tragedies that befall people everyday like auto accidents and home fires. Readers also acquire **background information** that is needed to be an informed citizen such as the workings of Con-