

You should watch out for these common errors when writing an introduction.

- Avoid a boring or uninteresting introduction.
- Avoid placing the thesis before background information.
- Avoid a too broad or too narrow thesis.
- Avoid faulty parallelism in a blueprinted thesis.
- Avoid discussing main points in any order other than the order they are listed in a blueprinted thesis.



Body Paragraphs

Each paragraph in the **body** of the essay develops **one main point** (topic sentence) that **supports the thesis** of the essay. The topic sentence should present an idea that can be developed in one paragraph, and the topic sentence should support the thesis of the essay.

The body paragraphs in an essay follow the traditional paragraph pattern of topic sentence, supporting sentences, and conclusion. Of course, not every paragraph begins with the topic sentence, especially in professional writing, but for most academic writing, it is a good idea to place the topic sentence first in order to make sure that there is no room for confusion as to the main idea of the paragraph.

Each body paragraph should directly support the thesis statement. In other words, each body paragraph is a separate reason why the thesis of the essay is true. A body paragraph usually has a minimum of three supporting sentences that develop the topic sentence. These supporting sentences are often developed with examples.

Most writers organize the ideas for their essay using an **outline**. As explained in Chapter 6, an outline is a formal structure that helps you organize support topics and subtopics. Outline form is broken down into main headings, support headings, and details. Use as many main headings, support headings, and details as you need to develop your topic. Main headings are indicated with Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV, V). Support headings are indicated with capital letters (A, B, C). Details are indicated with numbers (1, 2, 3). Each heading that is broken down should have at least two subheadings. If you have an A, you need a B; if you have a 1, you need a 2.



I wanted to explain in this essay how my new van meets my needs as a parent. I decided to cover three main points: the van's exterior, the van's interior, and the van's performance. Each body paragraph covers one main point. I begin each body paragraph with a topic sentence that supports the essay's thesis, and I supply at least three supporting details to develop or

Peer Example



Beth