

Your introduction:

Hook the reader with an anecdote, scenario, interesting fact or statistic, or a quote. Explain it, then explain how your hook relates to your claim. The last sentence in your introduction is your claim. It should include the topic, the “what about the topic”, and be should be arguable.

Your first body paragraph:

Begin with a transition, such as “to begin with” or “first”, and then state the main point of your paragraph (your topic sentence). Insert your first piece of evidence to support the paragraph’s main point and cite it, such as (Smith, 14). Clarify your evidence or explain how it proves your main point. Repeat, with another piece of evidence and another clarifying statement. End with a concluding sentence that sums up the point of the paragraph.

Your second body paragraph:

Begin with a transition, such as “next” or “in addition”, and then state the main point of your paragraph (your topic sentence). Insert your first piece of evidence to support the paragraph’s main point and cite it, such as (Jones, 10). Clarify your evidence or explain how it proves your main point. Repeat, with another piece of evidence and another clarifying statement. Please use at least two different sources of information for your essay. End with a concluding sentence that sums up the point of the paragraph.

Your third body paragraph:

This may be optional, unless you are writing an argument essay. If you are writing an argument essay, begin with a transition, such as “on the other hand or “despite this”, and then state the other side of the issue. For example, “On the other hand, people can benefit from watching television”. Briefly state a benefit, then quickly rebut it. An example of a rebuttal might be, “Regardless, the benefits of time spent interacting with other humans far exceeds any derived from time spent watching “The Bachelor”.

Your conclusion:

Begin with a transition, such as “All in all” or “In the end”, and reiterate your claim. Summarize your arguments. Explain them with an anecdote, scenario, interesting fact, statistic, or quotation. Leave the reader with an interesting thought, such a look to the future. If you are writing an argument essay, encourage your reader to take action.