

Activity Type

Reading, matching and writing exercises

Focus

Parts of an essay

Essay structure

Aim

To learn about the various parts that make up an academic essay and practice writing a structured, logical, and cohesive essay.

Preparation

Make one copy of the four-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1-B2)

Time

90 minutes

Introduction

In this parts of an essay worksheet, students learn about the various parts that make up an academic essay and practice writing a structured, logical, and cohesive essay.

Procedure

Students begin by answering three true or false statements to review some basic essay structure knowledge.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. False 2. True 3. False 4. True

Next, students match essay writing terms to their correct definitions.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. a 2. i 3. b 4. h 5. d 6. g 7. j 8. f 9. e 10. c

After that, students read an example essay to identify the key parts defined in Exercise B.

Exercise C - Answer key

1. Thesis statement	6. Body paragraph 1
2. Topic sentence	7. Transitions
3. Supporting idea	8. Conclusion
4. Background	9. Introduction
5. Details	10. Conclusion

In the last exercise, students create an essay outline on the topic of healthy eating. The students then use the outline to write a short essay that demonstrates all the parts of an academic essay. Remind the students to use transitions appropriately throughout the essay. When the students have finished, review their work and provide feedback.

A. What do you know about academic essay structure? Are the following statements true or false?

1. Essays and paragraphs have a very different structure.
2. Essays must have a logical and cohesive structure.
3. Topic sentences introduce the main idea of an essay.
4. Concluding sentences are not always required.



B. Match each term below to its correct definition.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| a. Introduction | b. Thesis statement | c. Transitions | d. Topic sentence |
| e. Conclusion | f. Concluding sentence | g. Supporting ideas | |
| h. Body paragraphs | i. Background | j. Details | |

1.: is the first paragraph in an essay. It introduces the topic and indicates the focus of the essay.
2.: the first part of the introduction that introduces the topic and gives some general information about it.
3.: the most important sentence in an essay that comes at the end of the introduction. It expresses the main idea or purpose of the whole essay.
4.: these make up the main section of an essay where all the key ideas and supporting details are discussed.
5.: is usually the first sentence of a paragraph and expresses its main idea or central focus.
6.: these are found in the body paragraphs. They come after the topic sentence and provide support for its main idea.
7.: usually follow supporting ideas and develop them through such things as explanations, examples, or definitions.
8.: this comes at the end of a body paragraph to restate the main idea.
9.: this is the last paragraph of an essay. It reminds the reader of the thesis statement and summarises the key points discussed in the body paragraphs.
10.: words or phrases that link important ideas within a paragraph or between paragraphs.

C. Read the essay and label each item 1-10 below with the corresponding part of the essay from Exercise B.

Fast food is very familiar and pervasive with famous brands such as MacDonald's and KFC found almost everywhere. Fast food is in some ways controversial and has inspired a movement to counter its influence. This counter movement is known as slow food, and it started in Italy in 1986 to offer an alternative to fast food. This essay will explain what the slow food movement is, and why it is good for the environment.

To begin with, slow food sees itself as a philosophy about how food is produced and consumed that is different to fast food in almost every way. The first difference between these two approaches to food centres on health. For example, fast food's negative impacts on health include obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. This is because fast food is typically highly refined and high in sugar and fats. On the other hand, slow food tends to be very healthy as it emphasises food that is more natural and fresh. In addition, the other key difference between them is reflected in their names. Fast food is made for speed and convenience to allow busy people to eat on the go. Conversely, slow food is a more relaxed style of eating. In fact, the main ethos of the movement is "slow and relaxed enjoyment", meaning that both the preparation and the consumption of food should not be rushed but enjoyed slowly so that the experience can be savoured. To sum up, slow food is the very antithesis of fast food.

Another feature of slow food is that it aims to be environmentally sustainable. The first reason why is that slow food is typically unprocessed, which means it has less of an environmental impact. Processing food is an energy intensive undertaking requiring large amounts of water and energy. As slow food focuses on the consumption of food that is seasonal and in its natural state, it requires fewer natural resources for its production. In addition, the transportation of slow food burns less fossil fuel. This is because it promotes local production and consumption, which means food is transported across much shorter distances. In contrast, most of the food we eat is not grown in our local areas but transported from far away, including places on the other side of the globe.

In conclusion, slow food is very much unlike fast food and is better for the environment. Slow food is healthier, more enjoyable, and consumes fewer natural resources. Thus, slow food is an approach to eating that should be widely encouraged.

1. The sentence beginning with, "This essay will... "
2. The sentence beginning with, "To begin with... "
3. The sentence containing the phrase, "the other key difference... "
4. The very first three sentences of the essay.
5. The last two sentences in the second body paragraph.
6. This is the only paragraph that ends with a concluding sentence.
7. "Conversely" and "thus" are examples of which essay feature?
8. The part of the essay that rephrases the thesis statement.
9. This paragraph has the opposite structure of the conclusion.
10. This is often the shortest paragraph in an essay.

D. Create an essay outline on the topic of healthy eating using the form below. Begin by brainstorming some ideas in the box and then complete the outline. Remember to only use key words and short phrases in your outline.

Topic: The Benefits of Healthy Eating.

Introduction

Thesis statement:

Body paragraph 1

Topic sentence:

Supporting idea 1:

Details:

Supporting idea 2:

Details:

Body paragraph 2

Topic sentence:

Supporting idea 1:

Details:

Supporting idea 2:

Details:

* A conclusion is not required in an outline as it simply recaps ideas already discussed in the essay. Conclusions never include new or additional information.

