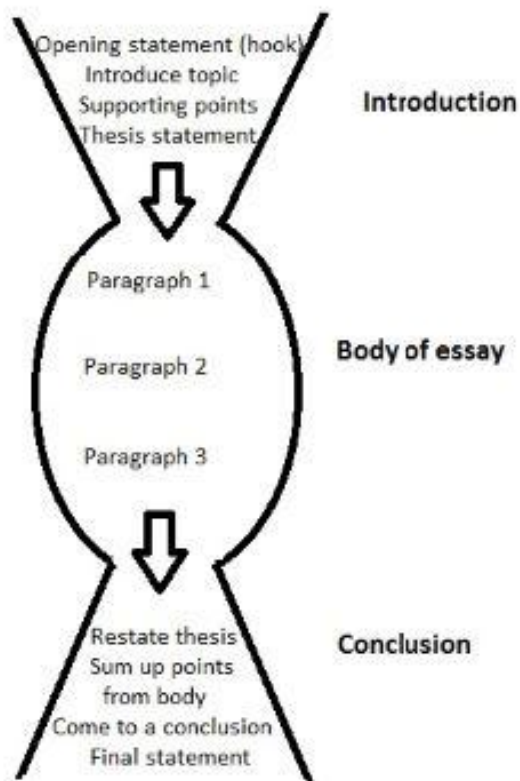


## What is an Essay?

**Definition:** An essay is a piece of writing that is an attempt to communicate something about **one idea**. It has several paragraphs that support a thesis- a statement of that one main idea that is the focus of the essay. Everything should relate to the thesis.

**Structure:** An essay has three main parts: an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.



**The introduction** introduces what the essay is going to be about; it is the "blueprint" or main plan for what comes next. It is something like, "This is what I am going to say and how I am going to say it." The first sentence, or **opening sentence**, is a general statement, but it is also a "hook" that catches the reader's attention and engages his interest. The next few sentences should relate to the topic of the essay and

gradually introduce the reader to the **supporting points** that will become **topic sentences** for the paragraphs in the **body** of the essay. It is something like, "these are the points or ideas that I will use to support my thesis." Then state the **thesis** that is going to be proved or explained.

**The body** of an essay has one purpose-to prove/support the **thesis**. It is something like, "This is what I am saying and why I believe my thesis." It usually has at least three paragraphs that support the thesis and explain it in detail. Each paragraph begins with a **topic sentence** that makes a point or argument in support of the thesis, that point is supported with examples/quotes, and those examples are then analysed with clear connections to the thesis. In other words, everything should explain, support, and connect to the **thesis**. Each paragraph ends with a concluding sentence and with transitional sentences connecting each one so that the essay flows logically from one paragraph to the next. A topic sentence can function as a transitional sentence if it echoes the previous paragraph while also introducing the next point to be analysed.

**The conclusion** is the final paragraph in an essay. It needs its own topic sentence that is a restatement of the thesis, a summary of the points made (how the thesis has been proved) and a conclusion about those points. Do not introduce any new ideas that have not been discussed in the body paragraphs. The concluding sentence is a final statement that leaves the reader with something to think about, or inspires some sort of further thought or action on the topic.