

EAP

The Structure of an Essay [part 1]

The five-paragraph essays that you write on this course should all contain these sections:

- **Introductory Material**
- **Thesis Statement**
- **Main Ideas (topic sentences)**
- **Supporting Ideas**
- **Conclusion**

One of the ways Criterion scores your essay is by identifying these sections. If it can't find them, it will give you a lower score!

Paragraph 1 *Introduction*

Introductory Material	Several sentences.
Thesis Statement	Explains the main idea, and the purpose of the essay. Usually one, but can be two sentences. Usually at the end of the introduction.

Paragraph 2 *Body*

Main Idea	Topic sentence. Supports the thesis statement. This sentence explains the idea of the paragraph.
Supporting Ideas	Several sentences Supports the main idea, by reasons & examples.

Paragraph 3 *Body*

Main Idea	Topic sentence. Supports the thesis statement. This sentence explains the idea of the paragraph.
Supporting Ideas	Several sentences Supports the main idea, by reasons & examples.

Paragraph 4 *Body*

Main Idea	Topic sentence. Supports the thesis statement. This sentence explains the idea of the paragraph.
Supporting Ideas	Several sentences Supports the main idea, by reasons & examples.

Paragraph 5 *Conclusion*

Conclusion	Several sentences. 'Closes' the essay. Restates the thesis statement, using different words. Summarizes the essay.
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