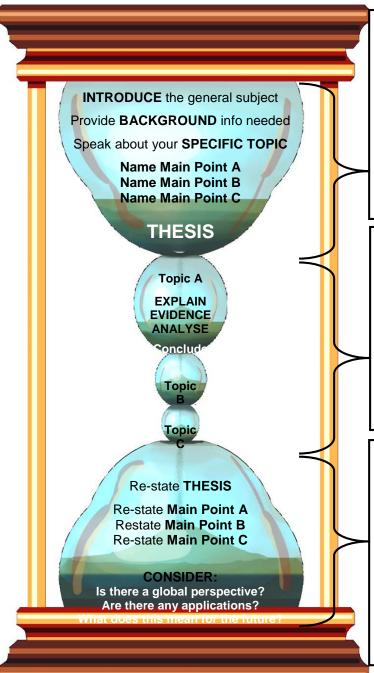
Structuring Your Essay

Students are often uncertain about how to organize their essay. Having a good structure helps the reader to remain connected to the ideas and follow the flow of information. This method of organization uses the shape of an hourglass to represent the focus of the essay, widening and narrowing as the reader is guided through the argument. This technique will not work for all essays, but it can easily be adjusted.



Introduction Paragraph:

The purpose of the introduction is to inform your reader what you will be talking about in your essay. Start with a broad, universal theme or issue and gradually narrow your focus until you arrive at the most important part of your essay: the thesis.

What is it that you are going to prove? Your main points are the arguments you are using to support your thesis.

Body Paragraphs:

Paragraph A:

Here you will prove your main point A. Start with a topic sentence that clearly links main point A to your thesis. Elaborate on your main point and use evidence to back up your claim. Show how your evidence supports your argument. Conclude by summing up main point A.

Repeat this process for each paragraph.

There should be one paragraph for each point.

Conclusion Paragraph:

The purpose of the conclusion is to remind your reader of your argument and to examine its importance. Re-state your thesis and arguments and check that your points support your thesis.

Do not introduce any new ideas.
End your essay on a broad note, and answer your reader's hypothetical question of "how does your thesis relate to the general subject or theme?"

For more detailed essay information see this: https://courses.kpu.ca/mod/resource/view.php?id=156238

Twaites, O. (2017). Writing Hourglass. Unpublished drawing, Faculty of Arts, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.



Structuring Your Essay

Sample Outline Introduction Paragraph: Broad theme: _ Specific topic: __ Main point A: Main point B: Introduce Main point C: Background Specific Topic **Main Point A** Main Point B Thesis: ____ **Main Point C** Paragraph A: Paragraph A will prove: **THESIS** Concepts relating to main point A: Topic A Explain Evidence Paragraph B: Analyse Conclud Paragraph B will prove: Concepts relating to main point B: Paragraph C: Paragraph C will prove: Re-state Thesis Re-state Main Point A Concepts relating to main point C: Restate Main Point B Re-state Main Point C **Conclusion:** Why is this important? Re-state thesis: Why is main point A important? **Introduction Paragraph:** What is it that you're going to prove? Why is main point B important? **Body Paragraphs:** Do your paragraphs support your argument? **Conclusion Paragraph:** Why is main point C important?

Why is your argument important?

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How did you prove your thesis?