

# An Expository Essay

## I. Thesis Paragraph

### A. First Sentence

1. Introduces in a general way the subject of the essay.

### B. Middle Sentence(s)

1. Narrows subject towards thesis statement.

### C. Last Sentence (Thesis Statement)

1. States what the essay will actually do (examine, look at, describe, compare, etc.) and what that process will accomplish (it is possible to show, it is possible to understand, etc.).

## II. Supporting Paragraphs (Where the essay does what the thesis said it would do)

### A. First Sentences

1. Transitional phrase.
  - a. Links the previous paragraph to this one
  - b. Ex. First of all, in addition, as well as, etc.
2. Tells the reader what the paragraph will be doing.

### B. Additional sentences

1. Sentences that accomplish what the first sentence of the paragraph said the paragraph would do.

## III. Concluding Paragraph

### A. First Sentence

1. Transitional phrase.
  - a. Ex. Finally, In the end, etc.
2. Provides a simply ending, usually what happened in the end.

### B. Additional sentences

1. Any additional information that concludes the “story.”

### C. Final Sentence

1. Restate the thesis statement in the past tense.
  - a. State what the essay has done (having examined, described, compared, etc.) and what the essay has accomplished (it is clear, it can be understood why, etc.).

## Do's:

1. First come up with a thesis and outline, so you know where the essay is going.
2. Write a rough draft.
3. Read and edit your essay enough times that it makes sense. If your essay doesn't make sense to you, it won't make sense to me.
4. Do NOT use informal language.
5. Make sure your re-stating of the thesis is in the past tense. “By examining...” becomes “Having examined.”
6. Never! write in the first person. Don't ever use “I,” “my essay will do this,” “I'm going to write about this,” etc.