# Structure outline for essays

## Introduction

Begin your paper with an opening sentence or “hook” about your topic that catches the reader’s attention.

Include context: provide the information the reader will need to understand the topic;

State your thesis, your arguable position on the topic. What side will you take? What will you prove in your paper? What are you going to explore?

## Include this in every paragraph of the main text

Write a general topic sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph for your first body paragraph, or for one you are having difficulty organising.

Write down the specific textual evidence or evidence you are using to support your thesis.

Analyse your evidence: tell the reader what is significant or important about this evidence. How does the piece of evidence support your thesis? Why did you choose to include it?

Don’t forget a transition sentence: Connect each paragraph with a sentence or two that demonstrates how each idea leads into the next.

## Conclusion

Make connections for your reader in your conclusion. You should refer back to your thesis, but don’t simply restate it. Use some of the following questions to guide you:

- Did you propose any solutions? Are there solutions yet to be discovered?
- What questions still need to be answered?
- What is the larger significance of the topic you chose to write about?
- What should the reader do or think after reading your paper?

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Reference:
Taken from Structure Outline for Essays - University of Manchester. *My Learning Essentials.*
Available at: [https://www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk/learning-objects/mle/packages/writing/](https://www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk/learning-objects/mle/packages/writing/)
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