

Essay Structure:

A good, critical, piece of writing should revolve around the specific point that you want to argue or engage with in depth.

An example of an essay's structure is the following:

Introduction

Definitions / Background

Discussion of Sources

Supporting Argument/ Contrasting Argument

Conclusion

References

You should start with an introduction that states your thesis (see above). Then you might want to have a paragraph providing some background to the particular issue you will be engaging with/ thesis you will be arguing, and why it is interesting. Then you should proceed to discuss the sources that you have researched and deemed relevant to the specific point of your essay. You can think of the essay as systematically bolstering your argument by addressing one relevant source at a time in relation to your thesis (maybe a source per paragraph). Where a source supports your thesis, you can explain how it supports it and why the source is independently plausible. Where a source conflicts with your thesis, you can explain how it conflicts and why you think that the point made by the conflicting source is a bad one and hence why your thesis remains solid. Your conclusion can then restate your thesis and briefly reiterate how it relates to the existing literature, which is what you will have been discussing in detail throughout. The conclusion may also be used to identify any outstanding issues or weaknesses with your thesis. This way you can show that you are aware of the scope of your argument and of any potential there may be for future work on the subject. Finish with a reference list and any appendices if used.

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or a simpler outline is:

- **The introduction**
- **The main body: a development of the issues**
- **A conclusion**
- **A list of references of the sources of information you have used**
- **Appendix (if any)**

Read more: <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/learn/essay-writing.html>