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# ESSAY WRITING

SRI LESTARI, MA

SESSION 14

## WRITING AN ESSAY: WRAP-UP



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students are able to write a well-developed essay, at least one of three options: compare/contrast, cause/effect, or argumentative essay.

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# WHAT IS ESSAY?

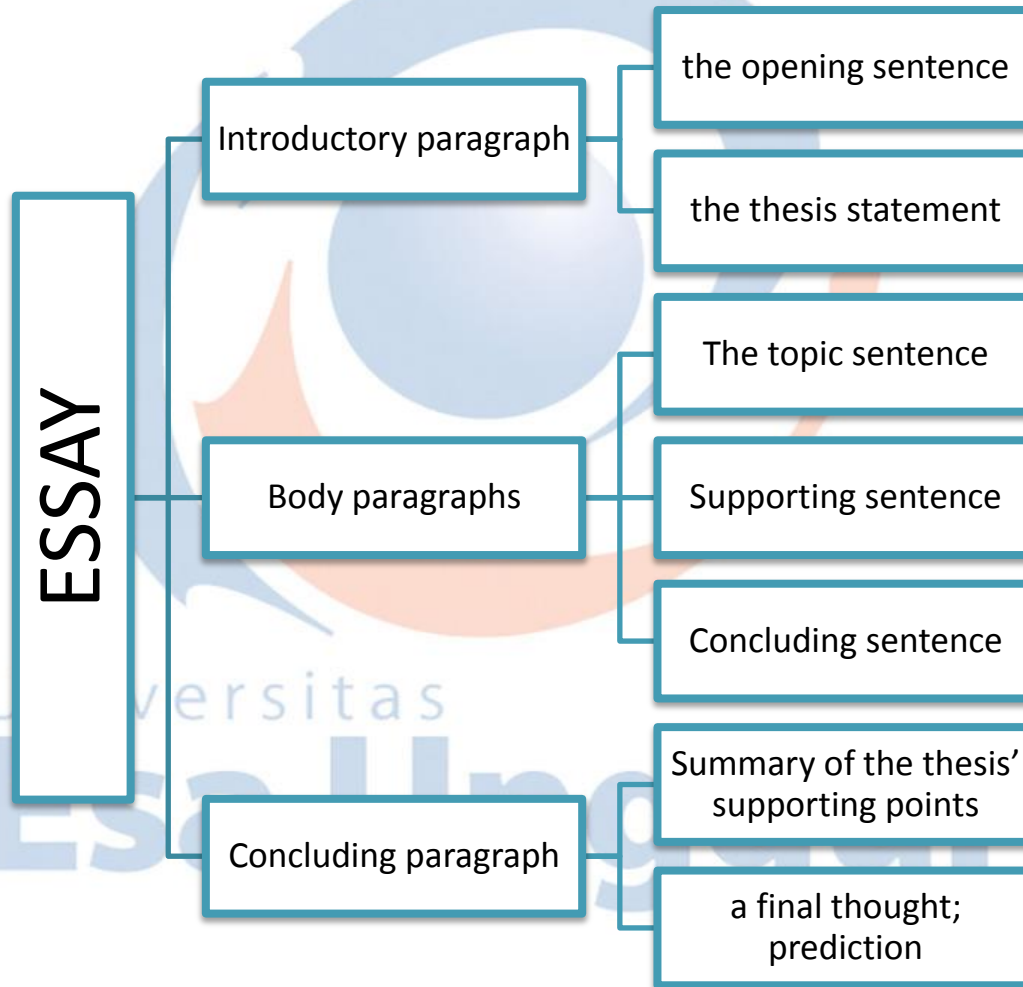
From the Latin word 'exagium' means the presentation of a case.

A piece of writing that...

- Gives author's argument or position; personal view; a research of a certain topic
- Classified as formal and informal (academic and non-academic)
- Presents and supports a thesis; valid point of view
- Persuades the reader

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# ESSAY STRUCTURE



# INTRODUCTION

- The introduction guides your reader into the paper by introducing the topic.
- It should begin with a **hook** that catches the reader's interest. This hook could be a quote, an analogy, a question, etc.
- After getting the reader's attention, the introduction should give some **background information** on the topic.
- The ideas within the introduction should be general enough for the reader to understand **the main claim** and gradually become more specific to **lead into the thesis statement.**

# THESIS STATEMENT

- The thesis statement concisely states **the main idea** or argument of the essay, sets limits on the topic, and can indicate the organization of the essay.
- The thesis works as **a road map for the entire essay**, showing the readers what you have to say and which main points you will use to support your ideas.

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# BODY PARAGRAPHS

- The body of the essay **supports the main points** presented in the thesis.
- Each point is developed by one or more paragraphs and supported with **specific details**. These details can include support from research and experiences, depending on the assignment.
- In addition to this support, the author's own analysis and discussion of the topic ties ideas together and draws conclusions that support the thesis.

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# CONCLUSION

- The conclusion brings together **all the main points of the essay.**
- It **refers back to the thesis statement** and leaves readers with **a final thought** and sense of closure by resolving any ideas brought up in the essay.
- It may also **address the implications** of the argument. In the conclusion, new topics or ideas that were not developed in the paper should not be introduced.

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# CITATION

- If your paper incorporates research, be sure to give credit to each source using in-text citations and a Works Cited/References/Bibliography page.
- The references are written on the last page or the last part of your essay.

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# TRANSITIONS

- Transitions **connect paragraphs** to each other and to the thesis.
- They are used within and **between paragraphs** to help the paper **flow from one topic** to the next.
- These transitions can be **one or two words** (“first,” “next,” “in addition,” etc.) or one or two sentences that bring the reader to the next main point.
- **The topic sentence** of a paragraph often serves as a transition.

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# PART OF A PARAGRAPH

- In an essay, a paragraph discusses **one idea in detail** that supports the thesis of the essay.
- **Each paragraph in the body** of the paper should include a topic sentence, supporting details to support the topic sentence, and a concluding sentence.
- The paragraph's purpose and scope will determine its length, but most paragraphs contain at least two complete sentences.

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# THE STRUCTURE OF A PARAGRAPH

## The topic sentence

- Main idea
- General sentence

## The supporting sentences

- Explain the topic sentence
- More detailed idea

## The concluding sentence

- Repeating the main idea
- Giving the final comment about the topic

# UNITY & COHERENCE

- Proper essay and paragraph format not only helps to achieve unity and coherence but also enhances the reader's understanding. Well-worded topic sentences and concluding sentences will also help maintain unity throughout the essay.
  - **Unity** is the continuity of a single idea (the thesis) throughout the essay. Each detail and example should develop logically and refer back to the original focus.
  - **Coherence** means that each point should be linked to the previous and following points to help the essay flow and progress logically and clearly. An easy way to link paragraphs together is through transitions in each paragraph's topic sentence.

# TYPES OF ESSAY

- This session we reviewed three types of essay:
  - Comparison/Contrast Essay
  - Cause-Effect Essay
  - Argumentative Essay
- Those three essays have similar parts or basic structure of essay but different model/pattern of organisation

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# A COMPARISON & CONTRAST ESSAY ORGANIZATION

## INTRODUCTION

- Present the subject to be compared or contrasted
- Ends with thesis statement that focuses the comparison or contrast

## BODY PARAGRAPHS

- Body Paragraphs for **point -by-point essays**
- Body paragraphs for Similarities (together in a block) and Differences Essays (together in a block)

## CONCLUSION

- summarises the differences and similarities and state his/her feeling about the topic

# TWO WAYS TO ORGANISE ESSAY: POINT-BY-POINT

1. **By comparing and contrasting a number of issues point-by-point**
  - There are two body paragraphs, each with a **clear topic sentence**
  - Each body paragraph presents **one main point** to be compared/contrasted
  - Within each body paragraph, **the topic sentence state the point of comparison and contrast.** The supporting sentences that follow provide two or three examples
  - The body paragraphs use sequence transitions, such as first, second, furthermore, etc. to connect the point-by-point analysis within the paragraph.

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## **TWO WAYS TO ORGANISE: BLOCK ORGANIZATION**

- 2. By focusing first on the similarities and then the differences (Block Organization)**
  - Two body paragraphs, each with a clear topic sentence
  - One body paragraph is devoted to similarities between two subjects, and one body paragraph is devoted to differences

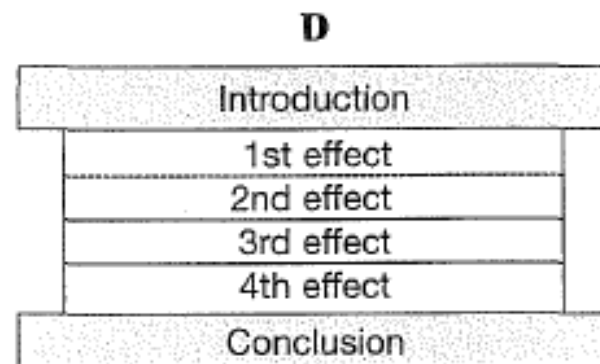
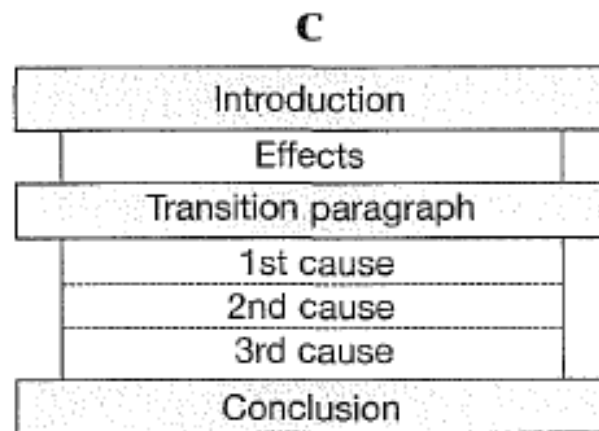
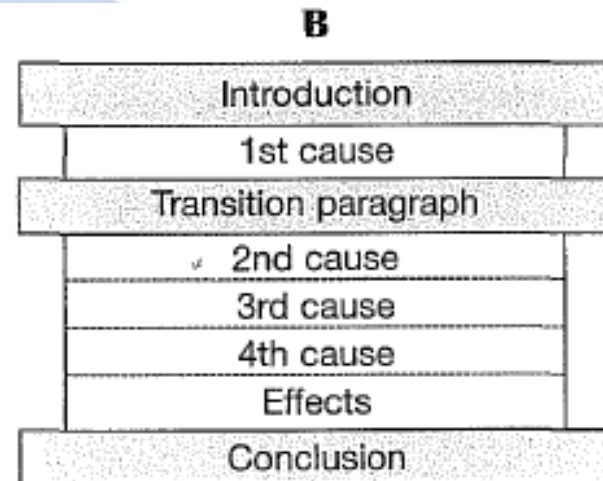
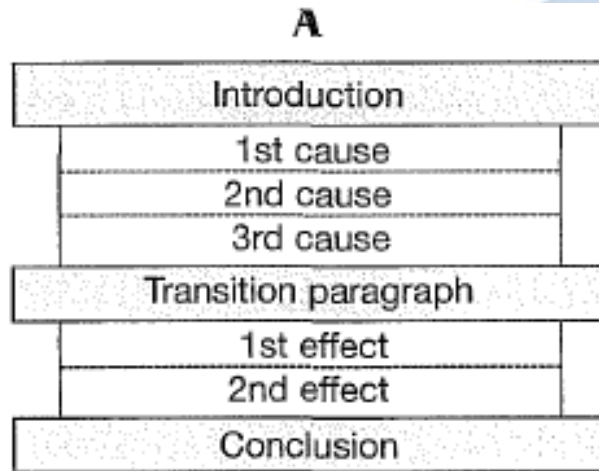
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# THE STRUCTURE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY

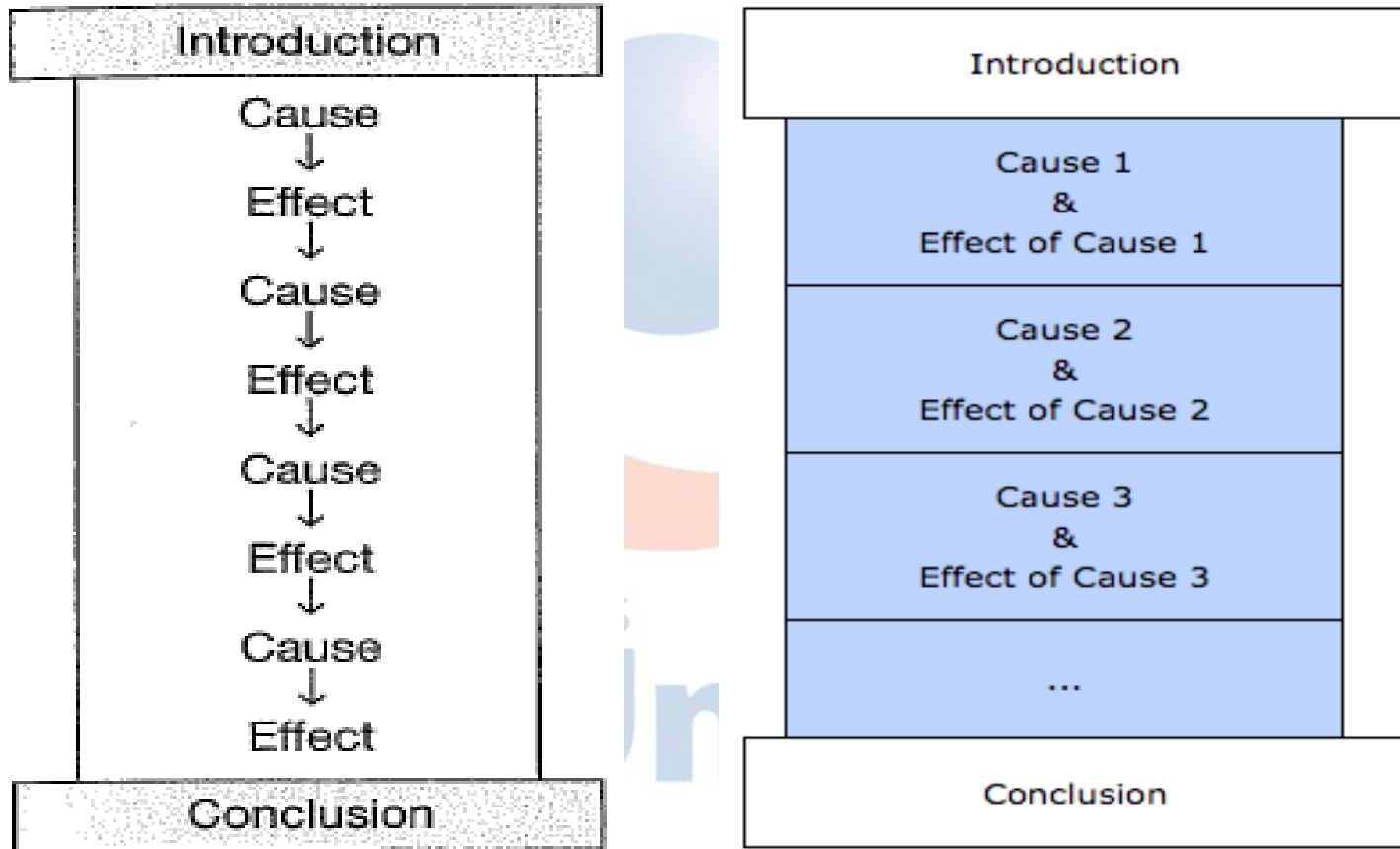
- There are two main ways to structure a cause and effect essay: a **block** or a **chain** structure.
- For the *block* structure, all of the causes are listed first, and all of the effects are listed afterwards.
- For the *chain* structure, each cause is followed immediately by the effect. Usually that effect will then be the cause of the next effect, which is why this structure is called 'chain'.
- Both types of structure have their merits.

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# BLOCK ORGANIZATION PATTERN



# CHAIN ORGANIZATION PATTERN





# HOW TO STRUCTURE ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY?

- There are several ways to organize an argumentative essay. You can use a **block pattern** or a **point-by-point pattern**.
- There are many **variations** on these two patterns. Which pattern you use will **depend on your topic**. With some topics, one pattern works better than others.
- **The important thing is** to present your side and rebut the other side in a **logical and organized way**.

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# ORGANIZATION OF ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

<b>Block Pattern</b>	<b>Point-by-Point Pattern</b>
<p><b>I. Introduction</b> Explanation of the issue Thesis statement</p> <p><b>II. Body</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Block 1</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Summary of other side's arguments <b>B.</b> Rebuttal to the first argument <b>C.</b> Rebuttal to the second argument <b>D.</b> Rebuttal to the third argument</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Block 2</b></p> <p><b>E.</b> Your first argument <b>F.</b> Your second argument <b>G.</b> Your third argument</p> <p><b>III. Conclusion</b>—may include a summary of your point of view</p>	<p><b>I. Introduction</b> Explanation of the issue, including a summary of the other side's arguments Thesis statement</p> <p><b>II. Body</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Statement of the other side's first argument and rebuttal with your own counterargument <b>B.</b> Statement of the other side's second argument and rebuttal with your own counterargument <b>C.</b> Statement of the other side's third argument and rebuttal with your own counterargument</p> <p><b>III. Conclusion</b>—may include a summary of your point of view</p>

# THE WRITING PROCESS

## Pre-Writing

Choose a topic

Gather ideas

Organize (Outline)

## Drafting

Write from start to finish

Use your notes and organization

## Reviewing and Revising

Review the structure

Review the content

## Rewriting

Revise structure and content

Proofread

Make final correction

# STEPS IN WRITING AN ESSAY

- Read the essay prompt carefully and understand the question/assignment
- Pick a topic
- Create an outline
- Write your essay: Create a thesis statement
- Write the introductory paragraph
- Write the body paragraphs
- Write the concluding paragraph
- Edit your first draft

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- Zemach, D.E & Rumisek, L.A. 2005. *Academic Writing: from paragraph to essay*. McMillan Publishing

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**THANK YOU**

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