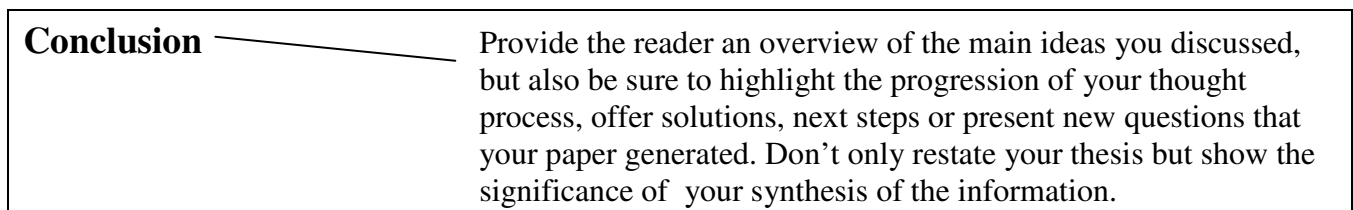
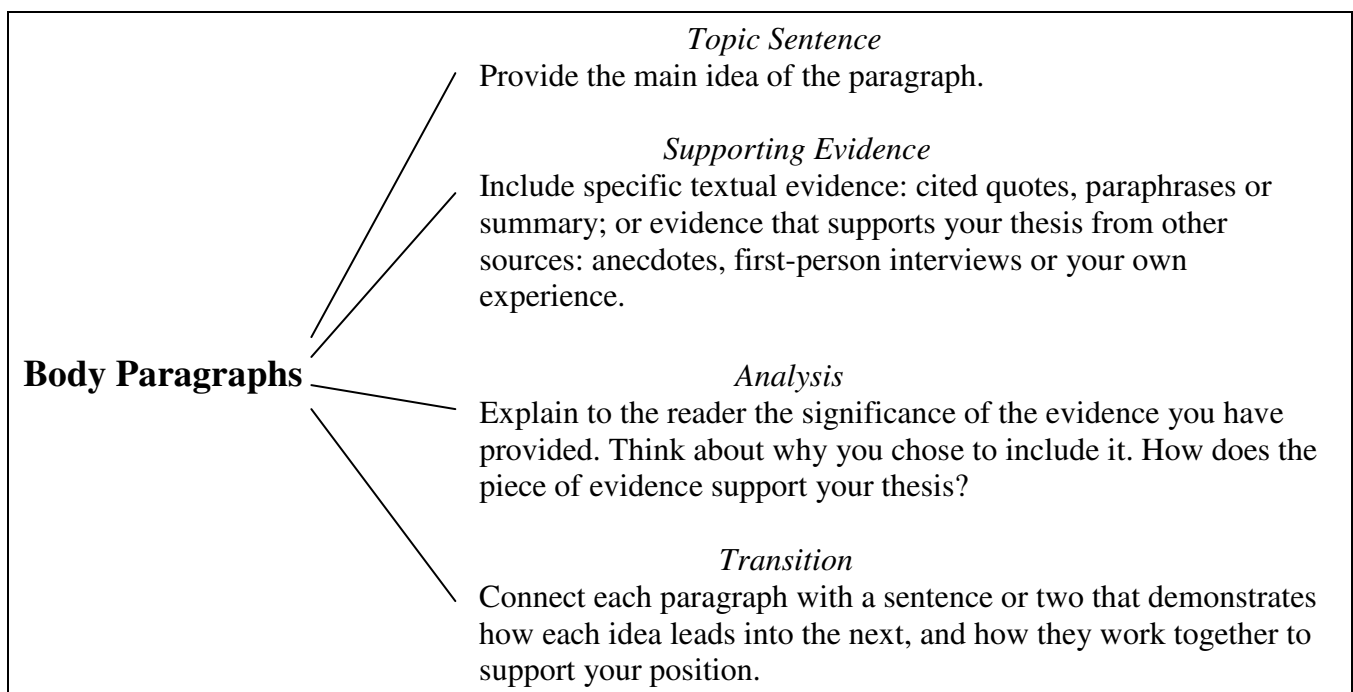
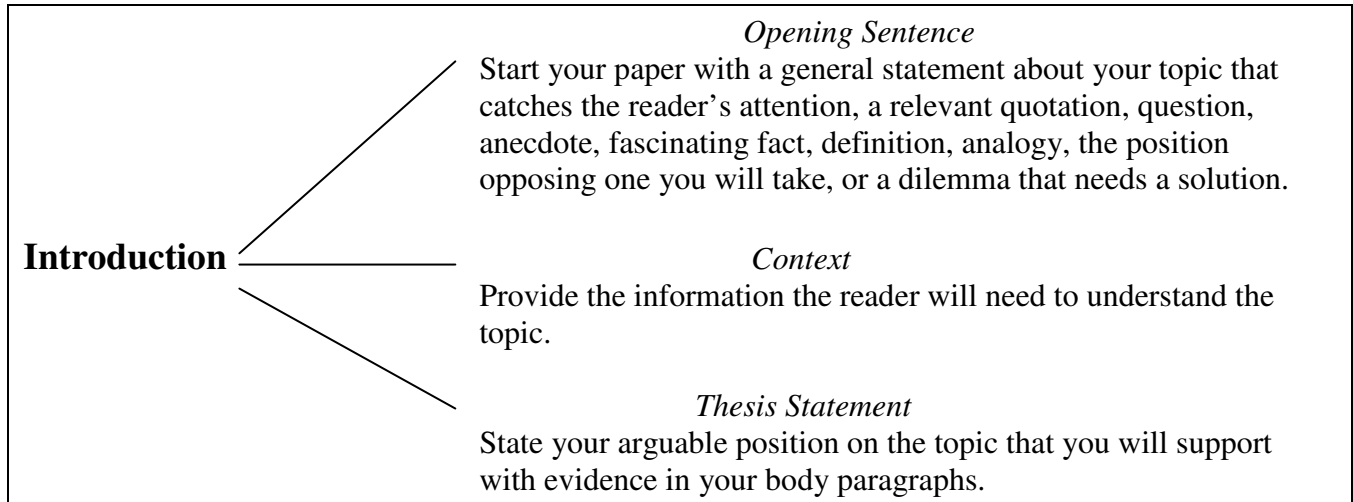


## Structure of a General Expository Essay

The following maps a commonly used structure for many academic essays. Use this outline to guide you as you compose your own argument, research or even descriptive essay.



## My Outline

Try applying this structure to your own writing: write sentences for the corresponding elements of your introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion in the space provided below.

### Introduction:

Begin your paper with a <b>opening sentence</b> or “ <b>hook</b> ” about your topic that catches the reader’s attention. Reference the list on the front for ideas.	
Include <b>context</b> : provide the information the reader will need to understand the topic.	
State your <b>thesis</b> , your arguable position on the topic. <i>What side will you take? What will you prove in your paper? What are you going to explore?</i>	

### One Practice Body paragraph:

Write a general <b>topic sentence</b> that states the main idea of the paragraph for your first body paragraph, or for one you are having difficulty organizing.	
Write down the specific textual <b>evidence</b> or evidence from other sources that you are using to support your thesis.	
<b>Analyze</b> your evidence: tell the reader what is significant or important about this evidence. <i>How does the piece of evidence support your thesis? Why did you choose to include it?</i>	
Don’t forget a <b>transition sentence</b> : Connect each paragraph with a sentence or two that demonstrates how each idea leads into the next.	

### Conclusion:

Make connections for the reader in your <b>conclusion</b> . You should refer back to your thesis, but don’t simply restate it. Use some of the following questions to guide you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Did you propose any solutions? Are there solutions yet to be discovered?</i></li><li>• <i>What questions still need to be answered?</i></li><li>• <i>What is the larger significance of the topic you chose to write about?</i></li><li>• <i>What should the reader do or think after reading your paper?</i></li></ul>	
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