





A Guided Writing Process Course

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HOW TO WRITE A COLLEGE LEVEL ESSAY









- Orientation & Introduction Paragraph
- **2** Supporting Paragraphs
- Conclusion & Final Test
- 4 Exit Review (Final Essay)

A college-level essay is a thesis-based paper with credible support. It is often an **argumentative** or **persuasive** essay with five or more paragraphs. The Write Track guides students to a **four paragraph** essay designed to introduce the basic structure, approach, and process to completing a full college-level essay.

BASIC STRUCTURE OF A COLLEGE ESSAY

INTRODUCTION (1 paragraph):

Identifies the essay topic and the writer's position or opinion. Sets the direction for the essay and ends with a Thesis Statement, which acts as the backbone of the essay.

SUPPORTING (2 paragraphs):

Acts as the body of the essay, containing evidence and examples to prove the supporting ideas.

CONCLUSION (1 paragraph):

Summarizes the essay's contents and offers an expectation about the topic. Concludes with a final thought from the writer's perspective.

Think carefully about the content and stay focused on the topic. Brainstorm your ideas and make a rough outline, which makes it easy to write.

Read credible articles to help establish your position.

Be clear and concise.

Write several drafts
and choose the one
that sounds most
appropriate.



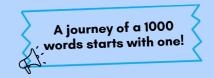
What is an Introduction Paragraph?

As the first paragraph, the Introduction Paragraph clearly identifies the **essay topic** and the **writer's position or opinion**. Try to make the reader interested in learning more and understanding the direction of the essay. End with a Thesis Statement, as described below.

How to Start!?

Read below and brainstorm ideas.
Choose your "Hook" and Position and begin writing sentences that will introduce the essay. Then create a Thesis Statement. Work with your mentor to finalize this paragraph.

PARTS OF AN INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH



"HOOK" (1 or 2 sentences):

This is the first sentence and gets the reader interested in learning more.

POSITION SENTENCES (2 or more sentences):

These sentences introduce and give specific information on the topic to help the reader better understand the writer's position (opinion).

THESIS STATEMENT (1 sentence):

Write Track teaches a "direct" thesis statement, summarizing the main idea, people involved, and supporting ideas of the essay.



3 HOOK Sentence Styles

Choose **ONE**

QUOTE

Use a Quote from a person about the Topic

NUMBERS

Use Numbers to show important statistics

QUESTION

Ask an interesting Question about the Topic

3 POSITION Sentence Styles

Choose **ONE**

COMPARISON

How do issues on your Topic compare with each other

ARGUMENT

Make a claim about your Topic and try to persuade the reader

PROBLEM

What problems are caused or fixed by your chosen Topic

3 Parts of a Direct THESIS STATEMENT

Must Contain **ALL**

MAIN IDEA

This is directly related to and focused as a summary of the essay contents

PEOPLE INVOLVED

This is the population of people impacted by the Topic

SUPPORTING IDEAS

Clear and connected support of the Main Idea with strong evidence and examples





What are Supporting Paragraphs?

Supporting paragraphs are the body of the essay. They give authentic evidence and examples to support your position on the topic. The first supporting paragraph is about the first supporting idea from the thesis statement. The second paragraph is about the second supporting idea from the Thesis Statement. Each paragraph gives one example with details that support the main idea. Remember to stay focused on the position stated in the Introduction Paragraph.

How to Start!?

Read below and brainstorm ideas. Expand each supporting idea into more specific examples. Each example needs descriptive details that help clarify your position. Research to learn more and use credible support in both paragraphs. Work with your mentor to finalize this paragraph.

PARTS OF A SUPPORTING PARAGRAPH

TOPIC SENTENCE (1 sentence):

This sentence broadly introduces the topic of the paragraph. Each Supporting Paragraph has a different topic sentence. It clearly states a supporting idea mentioned in the Thesis Statement.

FOCUS SENTENCE (1 sentence):

This sentence narrows the topic sentence to a specific area.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES (3 or more sentences):

These sentences give specific information on the supporting idea to help the reader better understand the writer's position (opinion).

CONCLUDING SENTENCE (1 sentence):

This sentence summarizes your paragraph and establishes a transition to the next paragraph.

Credible Support

The essay needs to be supported with credible supporting ideas. Authentic examples and details are important. Is your support credible?

- + Credible Ideas
- + Opinions are based on facts/statistics
- + Examples are based on personal experience
- + Ideas are easily relatable to the reader
- X Consider Changing
- X Opinions are not realistic
- X Examples are "hearsay"
- X Ideas are abstract



What is a Conclusion Paragraph?

The Conclusion Paragraph is the end of the essay. It **summarizes** the essay's contents. It offers an **expectation** about the topic and concludes with a **final thought** from the writer about the topic. It does **NOT** provide new information, such as more supporting ideas or examples. The reader should feel more knowledgeable about the topic and want to learn more.

How to Start!?

Read below and brainstorm ideas. Think carefully about one of the three **Expectation Styles**. Do some research to learn more. Stay focused on the topic. Work with your mentor to finalize this paragraph.

PARTS OF A CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH

REVIEW SENTENCE (1 sentence):

This sentence is a summary of the essay's main point.

EXPECTATION SENTENCES (2 or more sentences):

These sentences offer three possible outcomes that should further interest the reader (see below).

FINAL STATEMENT (1 sentence):

This sentence asserts the writer's position on the topic in a clear and concise manner.

EXPECTATION Sentence Styles

Choose **ONE**

SOLUTION

These sentences offer a brief solution to any problems related to the topic and supporting ideas. Don't overexplain or give too many details. Simply suggest a way that might be useful and allow the reader to think more on it themselves.

EXPECTATION Sentence Styles

Choose **ONE**

RECOMMENDATION

These sentences offer the reader choices in experiencing something related to the topic and supporting ideas. It could be a product or service or it might be an invitation to explore something more significant. Again, don't overexplain or give too many details.

EXPECTATION Sentence Styles

Choose **ONE**

PREDICTION

These sentences offer the reader a chance to think about the future. Make a prediction about any changes (good or bad) your topic might have and how it might impact society.







THINGS TO DO BEFORE EACH SESSION

- 1. Choose a Mentor
- 2. Read the Write Track Guide
- 3. Choose one of the three Topics
- 4. Write your **Introduction Paragraph** in the Google Doc you received.

- 1. Revise your Introduction Paragraph
- 2. Write two Supporting Paragraphs

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- 1. Revise your Supporting Paragraphs
- 2. Write your Conclusion Paragraph
- 3. Take **Final Test**



- 1. Write the **Final Essay** in the <u>same</u> Google Doc
- 2. Make an **Exit Review** appointment





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