



Typical essay structure

Introduction (heading not required) (10% of word count)

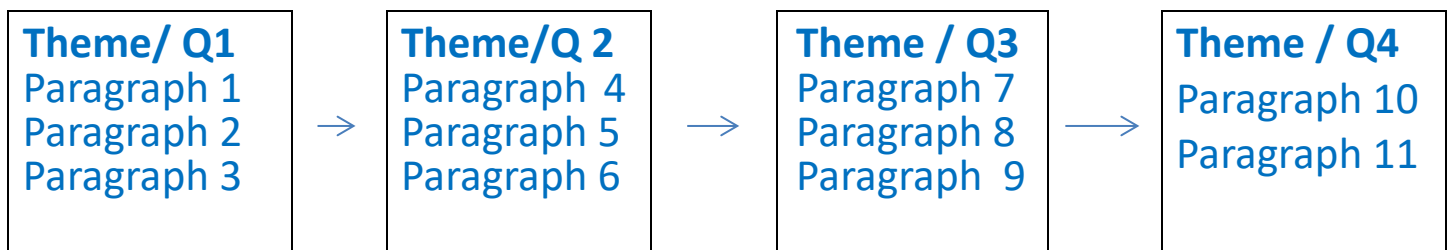
Click here to see [examples of introductions](#)

- Presents relevant background information that provides a rationale for the essay.
- Outlines the aim and scope of the essay



Main body (this should not be a heading in your essay)

Builds critical analysis of topic using a range of sources. The topic is broken down into themes or issues that you identify from your analysis of the question and reading, which are discussed in different sections



Click here to see [what makes a good paragraph?](#)
Click here for information on [creating flow in text](#)

Conclusion – heading not required (5-10% of word count)

Examples of conclusions

- The “take-home” message - restates the main argument made in the essay.
- Refers back to the issue raised in the introduction
- Not a summary of the structure of the essay – focus on issues, not structure
- Considers future implications or possibly recommendations
- The reader should be able to read the introduction and the conclusion and know
 - Why the issue is important
 - what the structure of the essay is – what issues are covered
 - what the writer’s position is

Reference list

All sources listed in alphabetical order by surname following Harvard referencing conventions