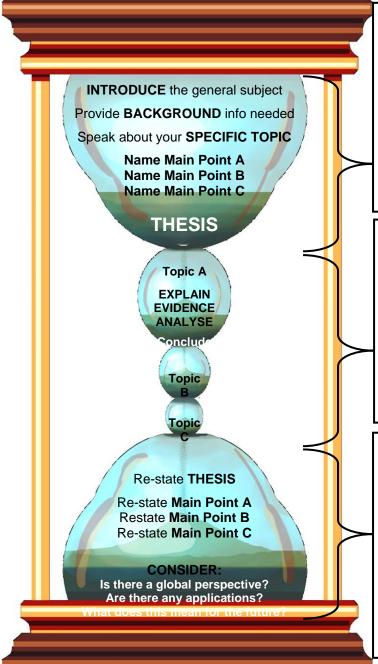


Structuring Your Essay

You may be uncertain about how to organize their essay. Having a good structure helps the reader to remain connected to the ideas and follow the flow of information. This method of organization uses the shape of an hourglass to represent the focus of the essay, widening and narrowing as the reader is guided through the argument. This technique will not work for all essays, but it can easily be adjusted.



Introduction Paragraph:

The purpose of the introduction is to inform your reader what you will be talking about in your essay. Start with a broad, universal theme or issue and gradually narrow your focus until you arrive at the most important part of your essay: the thesis.

What is it that you are going to prove? Your main points are the arguments you are using to support your thesis.

Body Paragraphs:

Paragraph A:

Here you will prove your main point A. Start with a topic sentence that clearly links main point A to your thesis. Elaborate on your main point and use evidence to back up your claim. Show how your evidence supports your argument. Conclude by summing up main point A.

Repeat this process for each paragraph.

There should be one paragraph for each point.

Conclusion Paragraph:

The purpose of the conclusion is to remind your reader of your argument and to examine its importance. Re-state your thesis and arguments and check that your points support your thesis.

Do not introduce any new ideas.
End your essay on a broad note, and answer
your reader's hypothetical question of "how does
your thesis relate to the general subject or
theme?"

For more detailed essay information see this: https://courses.kpu.ca/mod/resource/view.php?id=156238

Reference: Twaites, O. (2017). Writing Hourglass. Unpublished drawing, Faculty of Arts, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, BC, Canada.





Structuring Your Essay

Sample Outline

Specific topic: __

Introduction Paragraph:
Broad theme:
Main point A:
Main point B:
Main point C:
Thesis:
Paragraph A:
Paragraph A will prove:
Concepts relating to main point A:
Paragraph B:
Paragraph B will prove:
Concepts relating to main point B:
Paragraph C:
Paragraph C will prove:
Concepts relating to main point C:
Conclusion:
Re-state thesis:
Why is main point A important?
Why is main point B important?
Why is main point C important?

Introduce Background Specific Topic **Main Point A Main Point B Main Point C THESIS** Topic A Explain Evidence Analyse onclud Re-state Thesis Re-state Main Point A Restate Main Point B Re-state Main Point C Why is this important?

Introduction Paragraph:

What is it that you're going to prove?

Body Paragraphs:

Do your paragraphs support your argument?

Conclusion Paragraph:

How did you prove your thesis?

Why is your argument important?

