

Academic essay: a possible template

Sections	Possible signposting
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Paragraph 1: Introduction (at least three sentences)

Background	Nowadays, ... With the development of... In recent years, ... [+ Present Perfect]
The opposite of your opinion	One view is that... It is sometimes claimed that... A common opinion is that...
Your opinion (the stance)	This essay, on the other hand, will argue that... In contrast, this paper takes the view that... However, this essay will defend the view that...

Paragraph 2: Supporting argument

First argument	Supporting this view, ... In favour of this position, ...
Supporting example	One example of this is... / A good example of this is... An instance of this was... / Take ... as an example. When...

Paragraph 3: Second supporting argument

Second argument	Furthermore, ... Moreover, ... In addition, ...
Supporting example	For example/instance, ... This was the case when... / would be the case if...

Paragraph 4: Counterargument and refutation

Counter-argument	Against this, it is sometimes claimed that... Opposing this view, it is suggested that...
Refutation (rebuttal)	However, it should not be forgotten that... That may be true sometimes / in some cases, but... Perhaps that was once a problem, but now...

Paragraph 5: Conclusion (with a reminder of the main supporting arguments)

Repetition of the stance	In conclusion, this essay has argued that... To conclude, the view of this paper is that...
Reminder of main arguments	... for reasons of... and... This is based on considerations of... and...
If possible, a summary or final comment	In general, ... / Overall, ... / Generally, ...
A prediction or hope	Hopefully, in the future, ... It is likely that, with the progress of... , ...