

Academic essay: a possible template

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

Background	These days, ... With the development of... In recent years + present perfect... The topic of... This essay will discuss [the extent to which]...
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, ... Firstly, it is important to consider...
Supporting example	One example of this is... / A good example of this is... An instance of this was... / Take ... as an example. When... One notable example is...

Paragraph 3: Second supporting argument

Second argument	Furthermore, ... Moreover, ... In addition, ... Another significant point is... Furthermore, it can be argued that... In addition to this...
Supporting example	For example/instance, ... This was the case when... / would be the case if...

Paragraph 4: Counterargument and refutation (if possible two)

Counter-argument	Against this, it is sometimes claimed that... Opposing this view, it is suggested that... On the other hand, some people argue that... However, it is also important to consider the perspective that... Despite the arguments mentioned above, there are those who believe that... Conversely, an opposing viewpoint is that...
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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... While this argument has some merit, it overlooks the fact that... Although this perspective is valid to some extent, it fails to acknowledge that... However, this argument is weakened by the consideration that... Nevertheless, it is important to note that...
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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..., ...