

Appendix

The Paragraphs in an Essay

The essay is usually a short non-fictional prose composition which deals with the different aspects of a single subject. It often expresses the writer's personal experience and conveys personal response and insight. This kind of essay which gives the personal or individual point of view or feeling is called the subjective essay. On the other hand, an essay may also be objective in its content and approach. An objective essay is one which deals with outward things and actual facts uninfluenced by personal feelings or opinions. Students have to write both personal and impersonal essays in their examinations.

Essays may be of various patterns. But a student should always follow the standard essay pattern for his college assignment. According to this pattern, an essay consists of an introduction, a body and a conclusion.

Introduction: This is the beginning of the essay and it consists of one introductory paragraph. Like the topic sentence of a paragraph, this introductory paragraph of an essay introduces the central theme and focuses on the important aspects of the subject in question. In fact, it is the summary of your essay. The points which you are required to expand and elaborate in the rest of the essay should all be mentioned in this section.

Body: As the body of a paragraph consists of a number of developing sentences to expand the main idea of the paragraph, the body of an essay is formed by a series of paragraphs which explain and support the main ideas mentioned in the introductory paragraph. They support the thesis statements with the help of illustrations, examples, explanations, arguments, and facts and figures. You should maintain that each of these developing paragraphs should deal

with only one aspect of the subject. If you have made five points in the introduction, you should write five paragraphs in the body to explain one point each. Every individual paragraph in the essay should have a unity of its own and to maintain the overall unity in the essay, the supporting paragraphs should be carefully linked explicitly or implicitly to the main thesis.

Conclusion: This is the last paragraph of the essay, which once again reminds the readers of the topic either by restating it or by summarizing the supporting details. If you restate the topic, you can simply paraphrase your topic paragraph. This indicates that the structure of an essay is circular. At the end of your essay, you should come back to the place where you started from.

From this analysis of the essay pattern, it is obvious that an essay is a combination of several paragraphs which deal with the same subject and which are logically linked with one another. The first paragraph should introduce the theme, the paragraphs in the middle should explain it and the last paragraph should bring the essay to a logical conclusion by restating the topic and reinforcing the overall purpose of the essay. Above all, all the paragraphs in an essay should be about the same subject and they should all be logically arranged so that the essay as a whole achieves unity and coherence.