

Hi Class,

Here is a good way to think about the logical organization of your essay:

- 1. Introduction:** summary overview with thesis statement
 - a. Hook your audience's attention in the first sentence
 - b. 2-3 sentences to explore the problem
 - c. Thesis statement sentence
- 2. Body paragraph:** illustrate the problem *
 - a. Topic sentence summarizing the one main point of the paragraph
 - b. Explain the point
 - c. Cited research to validate that point
 - d. Explain the research
 - e. Concluding sentence
- 3. Body paragraph(s):** explore one point in each paragraph to prove your argument (idea for change) *
 - a. Topic sentence summarizing the one main point of the paragraph
 - b. Explain the point
 - c. Cited research to validate that point
 - d. Explain the research: why it matters, relevancy to thesis statement, implications to audience
 - e. Concluding sentence: summarize point of paragraph and transition to next
- 4. Body paragraph:** objectively present the counterargument *
 - a. Topic sentence summarizing the one main point of the paragraph
 - b. Explain the point
 - c. Cited research to validate that point
 - d. Explain the research: why it matters, relevancy to thesis statement, implications to audience
 - e. Describe/prove why this counterargument is ultimately not as effective as your idea for change.
 - f. Concluding sentence: summarize point of paragraph and transition to next
- 5. Conclusion:** summary
 - a. Restate the thesis statement in some manner
 - b. Summarize the main points of the body paragraphs that proved your idea for change
 - c. End on a memorable note to drive home your idea for change. What do you want your audience to do or believe?

* = **Cited research:** prove the point of the paragraph with cited summaries, paraphrases, and quotes from credible authors.

Hope this helps!

My best,
Dr. Rathje :)
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