

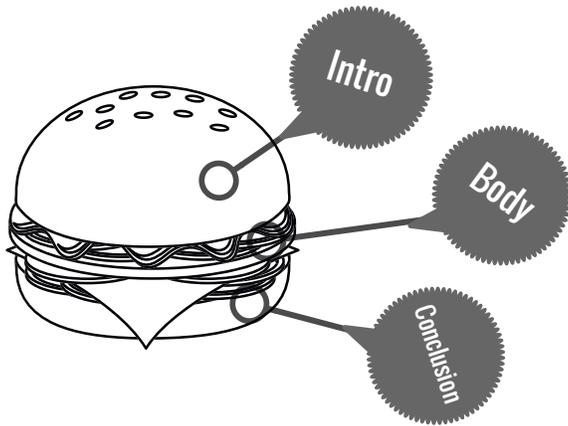
ESSAY ORGANIZATION

SMART SHOP

Smart
Shop

TIPS

YOUR ESSAY IS A HAMBURGER



INTRODUCTION: THE TOP BUN

1. Introduce the topic
2. Give background about the topic
3. If writing about a text, give the author, title, and a brief summary
4. End introduction with your thesis: a one to two sentence statement of your essay's main idea

Hook: To Use or Not to Use?

Quick definition: A hook or grabber is a catchy, intriguing opening that is meant to grab readers' attention and draw them into the essay.

High-level academic writing: usually not because the audience is already familiar with the topic

Journalistic writing: usually yes because the audience may not be familiar with the topic being discussed, so the hook or grabber helps capture readers' interest.

ACADEMIC TONE

Be aware of the level of formality expected in your essay

Choose words that communicate your ideas clearly and concisely

Academic writing strives to be clear, engaging, and accurate



BODY PARAGRAPHS: THE MEAT

1. Open with a topic sentence that states the main point of the paragraph
2. Give concrete examples with descriptive detail to demonstrate your main idea in the paragraph
3. Explain how the examples relate to your main point
4. End with a statement about the main point (not on some detail from the example)

TIP

In college, body paragraphs should be as long as they need to be (usually more than five sentences) to thoroughly explain and support your topic sentence.

CONCLUSION: THE BOTTOM BUN

1. Sum up the main point of your paper
2. Give a big-picture view of your topic
3. Explain why your argument is important or interesting
4. Do not include new examples, evidence, or quotations
5. Give a feeling of closure to the essay.

Essay Organization Checklist



- My first sentences introduce the topic.
- The middle of my intro gives background about the topic and introduces the text I am writing about (if appropriate).
- My intro ends with a thesis giving the main point of my essay.
Each body paragraph begins with a strong topic sentence.
- Each body paragraph gives plenty of support and detail to explain the main point.
- Each body paragraph ends linking back to my thesis.
My conclusion sums up my main point of the essay
- My conclusion explains why my argument is important or interesting in a "bigger picture" way.
- way.