

## Body

The body constitutes 80% of a paper and its number of sections is equivalent to its number of main ideas. The goal of this main part of the paper is to present in a clear and coherent way the ideas that support the thesis. Before writing a paper, you should take the time to think about the reader, the topic, and the purpose of your paper.

In order to go beyond a simple brainstorming session, remember that your ideas must be arranged to form a whole; in order to structure your ideas in an effective way, remember that the connections between your ideas are just as important as your ideas themselves.

## Outline

The outline is the framework for the paper. In point form or in complete sentences, it lists your main and supporting ideas as well as your evidence or examples in the order in which they will appear in the body. Each one of these ideas must be connected to the thesis.

**The types of writing most often seen in academic papers are expository writing and argumentative writing.**

- The purpose of expository writing (also called *informative writing*) is to explain something to your reader, whether it is the analysis of a certain phenomenon, situation or problem; the interpretation of a novel or poem; or any other exposition of verifiable facts or ideas. Since they cannot rely on much research or planning, term exams often require the use of expository writing.
- The purpose of argumentative writing (also called *persuasive writing*) is to convince your reader of something, whether it is the validity of a certain study's results or conclusions; the validity of a certain position within a debate; or any other argument based on verifiable facts or ideas. Since they rely on a lot of research and planning, term papers often require the use of argumentative writing.

Many strategies can be used to achieve these purposes. For instance, common ways to discuss a topic in academic papers include the presentation of arguments and counterarguments, of causes and effects, of pros and cons, and of similarities and differences.

Because there are various ways to structure a paper, you must find the outline that allows you to express your ideas in the clearest and most instructive or convincing way.

### Block Structure

1. Advantages
  - 1.1. Element A
  - 1.2. Element B
  - 1.3. Element C
2. Disadvantages
  - 2.1. Element A
  - 2.2. Element B
  - 2.3. Element C

### Point-by-point Structure

1. Element A
  - 1.1. Advantages
  - 1.2. Disadvantages
2. Element B
  - 2.1. Advantages
  - 2.2. Disadvantages
3. Element C
  - 3.1. Advantages
  - 3.2. Disadvantages

To know more, see *Checkmate*, *The Little, Brown Handbook*, the *Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers*, or similar writing guides.

## Main ideas

The main ideas are the backbone of the argumentation. They directly support the thesis and, together, they cover all the major issues that are raised by the thesis in order to ensure that the topic is fully explored. They have a clear and direct connection with the thesis and are further developed by supporting ideas.

**Example:** The red-tailed swallow is a vital part of the ecosystem.

Secondly, it is important to mention that the extinction of the red-tailed swallow would not stop at the elimination of only one species. Since the red-tailed swallow is a vital part of the Ungolu rainforest's ecosystem, its absence would affect the entire forest. . . .

The main ideas determine the structure of the entire paper. They must be organized logically, but they can be organized in a variety of ways: in chronological order, in order of importance, from general to specific, from theory to practice, according to advantages and disadvantages, etc.

## Supporting ideas

The supporting ideas are the more focused arguments that bolster the main ideas. They have a clear and direct connection with the main ideas and are backed-up by evidence or examples.

**Example:** Without the red-tailed swallow, the reproduction rate of the corkscrew beetle will increase drastically.

. . . For instance, this bird is the only insectivorous predator in the region that has a beak suitable for digging corkscrew beetles out of the bark of a tree; hence it is the only major predator that controls the insect's population (Andrews, 2010). However, its numbers have already begun to grow dramatically in Ungolu (Bates, 2012), and numerous studies point to the correlation between the rise in the corkscrew beetle population and the drop in the red-tailed swallow population. We can therefore assume that, without the red-tailed swallow, the corkscrew beetle will reproduce unchecked and destroy the Ungolu rainforest, along with the ecology that it supports. . . .

## Evidence

The evidence or examples are the words, ideas, and facts borrowed from the sources that have been consulted during research. This borrowed material is used to strengthen the arguments in a more concrete way. Every quotation, paraphrase, and summary must be followed by a reference.

**Example:** Quotation from Cooper (2001)

. . . Indeed, the corkscrew beetle "is strictly herbivorous—it bores into trees and consumes them from the inside out. Multiple beetles can live in and feed off the same tree, killing it in less than three weeks before moving to the next" (Cooper, 2011, p. 43). This example clearly shows that the presence of the red-tailed swallow is invaluable for wildlife preservation. Consequently, finding sustainable solutions to prevent its extinction is of paramount importance.

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## Paragraphs

A paragraph is a group of related sentences done with a first line indentation in order to divide the content of a text into more manageable parts. Together, these sentences must develop an idea, and develop it clearly.

- The "ingoing" transition ensures coherence between the previous paragraph and the current one; it shows how the upcoming idea is connected to the idea that was just developed.
- The topic sentence (or main point) is the backbone of the paragraph. It manages the reader's expectations by stating the idea that will be developed in the paragraph and its connection to the thesis.
- Supporting ideas are the more focused arguments that bolster the main point of the paragraph. Their purpose is to provide an explanation or elaboration of the topic sentence.
- Supporting evidence is any example, idea or fact borrowed from other sources in order to strengthen the arguments. Their relevance must be explained; quoting a source is not enough.
- The wrap-up sentence (or explanation) is a final comment that summarizes the ideas contained in the paragraph. It brings the focus back to the main point of the paragraph.
- The "outgoing" transition ensures coherence between the current paragraph and the next one; it shows how the idea that was just developed is connected to the upcoming idea.

<b>Transition:</b>	Secondly, it is important to mention that the extinction of the red-tailed
<b>Topic sentence:</b>	swallow would not stop at the elimination of only one species. Since the red-tailed swallow is a vital part of the Ungolu rainforest's ecosystem, its absence
<b>Supporting ideas:</b>	would affect the entire forest. For instance, this bird is the only insectivorous predator in the region that has a beak suitable for digging corkscrew beetles out of the bark of a tree; hence it is the only major predator that controls the insect's population (Andrews, 2010). However, its numbers have already begun to grow dramatically in Ungolu (Bates, 2012), and numerous studies point to the correlation between the rise in the corkscrew beetle population and the drop in the red-tailed swallow population. We can therefore assume that, without the red-tailed swallow, the corkscrew beetle will reproduce unchecked and destroy the Ungolu rainforest, along with the ecology that it supports.
<b>Supporting evidence:</b>	Indeed, the corkscrew beetle "is strictly herbivorous—it bores into trees and consumes them from the inside out. Multiple beetles can live in and feed off the same tree, killing it in less than three weeks before moving to the next" (Cooper, 2011, p. 43). This example clearly shows that the presence of the red-tailed swallow is invaluable for wildlife preservation. Consequently, finding sustainable solutions to prevent its extinction is of paramount importance.
<b>Wrap-up sentence:</b>	
<b>Transition:</b>	

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