Academic Essay Structures

Standard American argumentative essays follow a uniform structure composed of an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The introduction provides an overview of the topic and key related issues; it ends with a thesis statement that identifies your main argument. Thereafter, a series of body paragraphs elaborates on your topic and thesis, usually through a series of sub-points that support your main argument. It is important that each paragraph or section has a clear topic sentence to guide the reader. Finally, the conclusion typically restates your thesis and the main points of the essay. It may also suggest broader implications of your topic and arguments. Below is a visual representation of this format.

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