

quicktips

ACADEMIC ESSAY STRUCTURES & FORMATS

Standard American argumentative essays begin with an **introduction** that gives a main point (**thesis**). The thesis is supported by a series of **body paragraphs** with sub-points, and the essay ends with a **conclusion**. Below is a visual representation of this structure, adapted from the Seattle University Writing Center; on the back is an example of the typical format for an academic paper.

paper idea diagram

topic: _____

introduction: _____

subtopics - supporting arguments:

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details:

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conclusion: _____

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Academic Paper Format

Here is an example of what an academic paper typically looks like. Using standard fonts, margins, and indentations helps your paper gain credibility with an academic audience; readers who are comfortable with your paper's format can pay close attention to the ideas you're communicating.

