



Essay Writing

Once you have thought of 2 or 3 examples :

OUTLINE !!!!!!! Preparing what to say and how to say it .

I. Structure of the Essay: 3 Variations

1. Standard: introduction, 2-3 examples and conclusion

Advantages: To the point, predictable and clear.

Disadvantages: boring, uncreative

2. Narrative form: introduction, one example with 2 or 3 aspects, conclusion or result.

Advantages: Exciting, fun, creative

Disadvantages: Danger of straying from the topic. Make sure every detail is relevant, don't get lost in the story. Only one example or supporting point i.e. the anecdote itself.

3. Compare and Contrast: Intro, Pro Paragraph, Con Paragraph, Conclusion with thesis

Advantages: shows thought, understanding of ambiguity

Disadvantages: less predictable, need to make your position clear in intro and/or conclusion, despite cons.

II. Intro and the body

Use / build on examples from the intro . Don't neglect them and don't stray from the main point

Narrative lends itself to 1 big example, the others to 2 or 3 smaller examples.

More than 3 examples, you probably don't have time or space .

When writing the body keep in mind 3 questions

Why are you telling me this ? Go back to the thesis

Is this provable / supportable ?

Terrorism is violent -- okay but that's by definition, not interesting

Terrorism is bad -- explain how specifically

Terrorism is morally wrong because it hurts innocent people to make political statements.

Use qualifiers occasionally

Does this flow ?

Use conjunctions, participial phrases .

III. The Body

Two basic ways of doing it :

1. General → Specific

Topic: Throughout history, nothing has changed. Agree or disagree?



The Internet is literally a product of new technology. It wouldn't even exist without computers and new kind of wires and machines to regulate it. It has spread a web around the whole world, making it possible to share cutting-edge research, conversations, and art. For example, a student in Zambia with no local resources can practice English with an American over IM, access the Louvre in Paris, and truly become a world citizen.

2. Specific → General

Topic: Throughout history, nothing has changed. Agree or disagree?

Herodotus wrote in 700BC about the Persian Empire, which included parts of what is now Iraq. He tells the story of one emperor who had a river whipped for flooding and killing his troops. He genuinely believed that he could rule not only people and nations but nature itself. This kind of hubris was reflected in many actions of Saddam Hussein, former dictator of Iraq. Hussein ignored political boundaries and modern diplomacy by invading Kuwait in 1991. He altered the natural world by setting oil fields on fire. Although Iraq has changed a lot in 1300 years, and is no longer Persian in any way, we see a culture and tradition of dictators who try to control everything. Details change in history but the world is always the same.

IV . Conclusion

A conclusion is padding around a single sentence : The Thesis repeated.

If your examples are well - argued and strong, you need only rewrite your thesis .
"For all these reasons, technology has made the world a better place."

Otherwise, it can be a place to wrap up things you said badly above .

OR

Add 1 (ONLY) new SELF - EVIDENT example .

"These are just two benefits of technology. When we remember that a device like the telephone, which makes long-distance communication efficient and cheap for social reasons, business, or emergencies, is also a form of technology, we truly see the benefits of new technology."

NOT :

"So the more things change the more they stay the same. Look at the Israeli - Palestine conflict . They have always been fighting "
This is a very complicated issue and should go in a body paragraph, not mentioned quickly in the conclusion.



V. General Errors to Avoid

- Unclear Comparisons :

NOT "Technology has made life better." What does better mean exactly?

BETTER: "Telephones and airplanes have made it easier to travel and communicate."

- Ranting or personal problem

NOT "Old people complain too much. Why can't they understand that we kids are doing the same things they used to do, like listen to music and stay out late? It makes me so mad!" Informal style, personal problem, emotion

BETTER: "Older people sometimes forget that in their youth they also did many things young people do today. The jazz music my grandfather enjoys was as strange to his parents as rap is to him. Older people should have sympathy for the young instead of condemning them."

- Getting lost in details

"My father was 6 feet tall and good with his hands." Not important!

VI. Examples of Introductions and Outlines:

1. Standard Essay

I. Introduction

I think that Technology has helped the world a lot. For example, medicine has benefited from new treatments and drugs that people didn't know existed 50 years ago. In addition the Internet has helped people all over the world communicate and learn new things.

That is why new technology has made life better in a number of ways.

II. Body Paragraph: Medicine

III. Body Paragraph: Internet

IV. Conclusion

2. Narrative

I. Introduction

At 8 am, my mother shook me awake. She was crying harder than I had ever seen her cry before. "Look at the TV," she said. As soon as I did, I realized why she was so hurt. I watched the first and then the second World Trade Center be destroyed by hi-jacked airplanes, though at the time I didn't know how or why it had happened. All my anger at her rude awakening turned to grief for those who died in the September 11 attacks and hatred of the terrorists who did it. This single dramatic event proves that the greatest harm comes from others.

II. Body Paragraph: Victims as harm

III. Body Paragraph: Political Harm

IV. Conclusion



3. Pro and Con

I. Introduction

Some people say the world is always changing. Everyone has a grandparent who loves to tell stories about how much better things were in the past—or sometimes how much harder it was. On the other hand, human nature isn't something that really changes. The past, like the present is full of wars, hardships, celebrations, heroes, villains and progress. For all the changes the world has been through, people are still the same.

II. Body Paragraph: Example of Change that is really the same

III. Body Paragraph Second Example of change that is really the same

IV. Conclusion