

Basic structure of an academic essay

Introduction

- About 10-15% of total length
- Gives the context, defines the topic, states the thesis (point of view) and scope (main discussion points).

Body

- Remaining 80%+ of total length
- To decide how many paragraphs you will have, work on the basis of 100-200 words per paragraph.
- For example, you will have about 5-6 body paragraphs for a 1200 word essay.

Conclusion

- About 10-15% of total length
- Summarises main points, restates the thesis, points to larger contexts or the future.