

Good Student

Instructor/Professor/Dr. Doe

ENGL 101

Day Month Year

Generic Academic Essay Template

INTRODUCTION. Attention grabber (2-4 sentences): the opening of the introduction. Examples: a shocking statistic, an anecdote about the topic, a personal story, a famous quotation, along with 2-3 sentences unpacking or explaining it. Avoid opening with a question or your main point. **Thesis statement (usually 1 sentence):** the last sentence of the introduction represents the main argument or topic of the paper and includes all keywords relating to what will be discussed.

BODY PARAGRAPH #1. Topic sentence (1 sentence): the opening line of each body paragraph states the main idea of the paragraph (make sure the paragraph matches the topic sentence). **Insert evidence (3-5 sentences):** support your claim by providing evidence such as statistics, quotations, examples, reasoning, explanations, steps, etc. to prove your topic sentence. **Hint:** use a “quotation sandwich” to create solid content for the paragraph—first a sentence or two introducing the author and material, then the quotation, and lastly one or several sentences explaining the relevance or significance of the quotation to your topic sentence.

BODY PARAGRAPH #2. Topic sentence (1 sentence): the opening line of each body paragraph states the main idea of the paragraph (make sure the paragraph matches the topic sentence). **Insert evidence (3-5 sentences):** support your claim by providing evidence such as statistics, quotations, examples, reasoning, explanations, steps, etc. to prove your topic sentence. **Hint:** use a “quotation sandwich” to create solid content for the paragraph—first a sentence or

two introducing the author and material, then the quotation, and lastly one or several sentences explaining the relevance or significance of the quotation to your topic sentence.

BODY PARAGRAPH #3. Topic sentence (1 sentence): the opening line of each body paragraph states the main idea of the paragraph (make sure the paragraph matches the topic sentence). **Insert evidence (3-5 sentences):** support your claim by providing evidence such as statistics, quotations, examples, reasoning, explanations, steps, etc. to prove your topic sentence.

Hint: use a “quotation sandwich” to create solid content for the paragraph—first a sentence or two introducing the author and material, then the quotation, and lastly one or several sentences explaining the relevance or significance of the quotation to your topic sentence.

CONCLUSION. Restatement of thesis: restate the main idea of the paper, using all keywords and avoiding copying the thesis from the introduction. **Lead out:** refer back to your opening attention grabber (this is a framing device) by telling a similar anecdote, statistic, quotation, etc., that is slightly different or more optimistic. End on a note of hope by showing personal growth or suggesting future improvements, further research, or a “perhaps” statement.

Tip: Now go back through and insert transition words and phrases where appropriate. These are the “turn signals” in your essay to show readers where you are going. Examples: “First,” “Another important reason that,” or “Most importantly.”