

Good Student

Instructor/Professor/Dr. Doe

ENGL 101

Day Month Year

Academic Essay Template

Introduction. **Attention grabber:** 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. **Thesis statement:** 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:** the opening line of each body paragraph states the main idea the paragraph will discuss (make sure it matches). **Insert evidence:** support your position by providing evidence (statistics, quotations, examples, reasoning, explanations, steps, etc.). **Hint:** insert a “quotation sandwich” to create a series of solid sentences 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:** the opening line of each body paragraph states the main idea the paragraph will discuss (make sure it matches). **Insert evidence:** support your position by providing evidence (statistics, quotations, examples, reasoning, explanations, steps, etc.). **Hint:** insert a “quotation sandwich” to create a series of solid sentences 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:** the opening line of each body paragraph states the main idea the paragraph will discuss (make sure it matches). **Insert evidence:** support your position by providing evidence (statistics, quotations, examples, reasoning, explanations, steps, etc.). **Hint:** insert a “quotation sandwich” to create a series of solid sentences 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: go back in and insert transition words and phrases where appropriate. These are the “turn signals” in your essay to show readers where you are going.