

STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY

Directions: Review the basic structure below and write below “I Notice” what you observe about the outline. Then, write below “I Wonder” what questions you still have about parts of this structure of an essay.

Basic Outline

- I. Introduction Paragraph
 - A. Attention-getter
 - B. Transition the attention-getter to the topic of the essay
 - C. Thesis statement or the essay’s claim
- II. Body Paragraph - Topic of paragraph 1
 - A. Topic sentence or paragraph’s claim
 - B. Evidence
 - C. Reasoning
 - D. Evidence
 - E. Reasoning
 - F. Transition sentence to next paragraph
- III. Body Paragraph - Topic of paragraph 2
 - A. Topic sentence or paragraph’s claim
 - B. Evidence
 - C. Evidence
 - D. Reasoning
 - E. Transition sentence to next paragraph
- IV. Body paragraph - Topic of paragraph 3
 - A. Topic sentence or paragraph’s claim
 - B. Evidence
 - C. Reasoning
 - D. Evidence
 - E. Reasoning
 - F. Transition sentence to next paragraph
- V. Conclusion Paragraph
 - A. Restate the main points (topic of each paragraph)
 - B. Restate the thesis statement

I Notice

I Wonder

*Sometimes evidence, reasoning, and transition statements are in a different order based on the author’s writing style.