ESSAY STRUCTURE

How effective structure supports reasoned argument in essays

1. Introduce discipline/field/context and topic
   Why is this topic interesting from the perspective of the discipline/field? [also consider how interested you are in the topic]

2. Focus
   As necessary, indicate relevant debate, previous research, problem, definitions, scope in time & place, etc

3. Signpost structure of argument
   Tell the reader the sequence of your sections/issues in the body of your essay

4. Indicate thesis statement (your main line of argument)
   Indicate your answer to the underlying question

5. Section: context/theory
   Analyse/evaluate
   Background

6. Section: 1st issue
   Analyse/evaluate
   Supporting sentences (evidence, examples)

7. Section: 2nd issue
   Analyse/evaluate

8. Section: 3rd issue
   Analyse/evaluate

9. Concluding/Linking sentence
   Draw together your findings/analysis from each section of your argument

10. State your conclusion/evaluation/researched thesis, based on your findings

11. Consider the implications of your evaluation for the debate/problem in your discipline/field

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Rao, V., Chanock, K., & Krishnan, L., 2007, *A visual guide to essay writing: how to develop and communicate academic argument*, Association for Academic Language & Learning (AALL), Sydney