



Tikrit University

College of Education for Women

English Department

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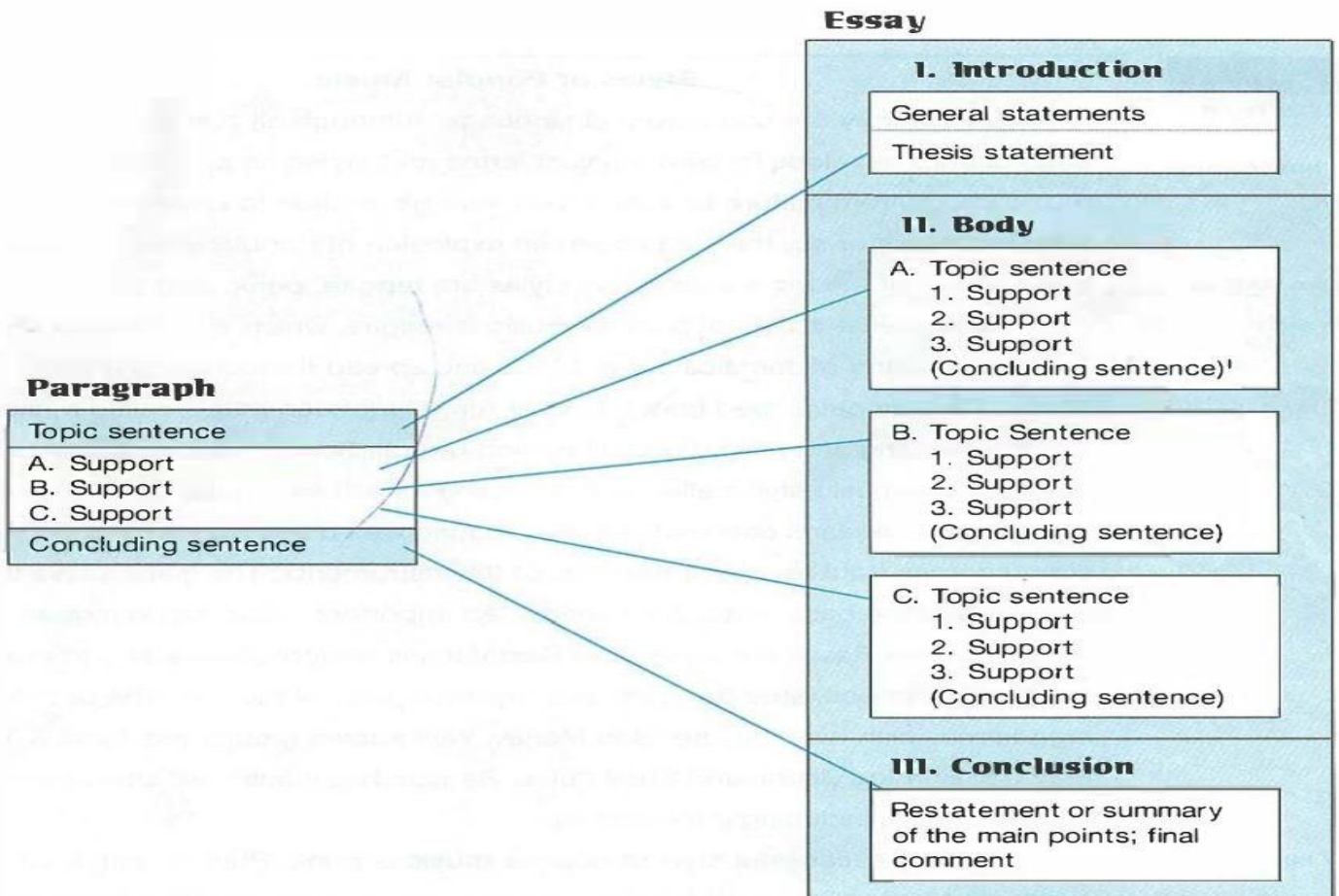
Essay Organization

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Writing an essay is no harder than writing a paragraph . An essay is just longer, so you have to plan it more carefully.

Three Parts of an Essay

Study the diagram and notice how the three parts of a paragraph correspond to the three parts of an essay.



An essay introduction stimulates the reader's interest and tells what the essay is about. The last sentence of an introduction is the thesis statement. Like the topic sentence of a paragraph, a thesis statement names the specific topic of the essay. The body consists of one or more paragraphs. Each paragraph develops a subdivision of the topic. The conclusion, like the concluding sentence in a paragraph, is a summary or review of the main points discussed in the body. An essay has unity and coherence, just as a paragraph does. Transition signals link the paragraphs into a cohesive whole.

When you read the model essay, study its organization. Notice the transition signals at the beginning of the three body paragraphs; they tell you which pattern of organization this essay uses.

Vocabulary

- 1. 'hesitation beat: rhythm in which one beat comes later than expected.**
- 2. bass: type of guitar that plays the lowest notes of all guitars.**
- 3. melody: pattern of sound that makes up a song**
- 4. cult: religious group**
- 5. the late (+ person's name): no longer living; dead**

The introductory Paragraph

The introductory paragraph, or introduction, is the first paragraph of an essay. It has two functions: (1) It attracts the reader's interest, and (2) it introduces the topic of the essay.

There are several kinds of introductory paragraphs. In this book, you will learn to write a kind known as a "funnel" introduction.

A **funnel introduction** has two parts: several general statements and one thesis statement. The **general statements** give the reader background information about the topic of the essay. They should lead your reader gradually from a very general idea of your topic to a very specific idea. The first general statement in a funnel introduction just introduces the topic. Like the lens of a camera moving in for a close-up picture, each sentence that follows becomes more and more focused on a specific topic. The thesis statement is normally the last sentence in an introductory paragraph. It has three purposes:

1. It states the specific topic of the essay.
2. It may list the subtopics of the main topic.
3. It may also mention the method of organization.

Reread the introductory paragraph of the model essay "Styles of Popular Music." Notice how the sentences gradually move from the general topic of music to the specific topic, three successful styles of popular music.

- The first sentence attracts the reader's interest with a short sentence; it also names the general topic (music).
- The second sentence says that each culture has its own kinds of music.

Body Paragraph

The body of an essay is made up of one or more paragraphs. Each body paragraph has a topic sentence and several supporting sentences. It may or may not have a concluding sentence. Each body paragraph supports the thesis statement. Reread the three body paragraphs of the model essay. The topic sentence of each body paragraph introduces one style of popular music. The supporting sentences following each topic sentence give more information about each style.

Thesis statement:

Three of the more successful styles are reggae, punk, and rap.

Topic sentences:

A. One successful style of popular music is reggae, which was born on the Caribbean island of Jamaica in the 1960s and spread throughout the world in the 1970s.

B. A second successful style of popular music is punk. C. A third successful style of popular music is rap, which is also called hip-hop.