



# STUDY GUIDE

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# ESSAY WRITING

## STRUCTURE

### INTRODUCTION 5%

Your introduction tells the reader how you will answer the question. Your introduction should:

- Comment on the title or topic of the essay
- Define or explain any difficult or ambiguous terms in the title
- Direct the reader by stating which aspects of the topic you intend to cover and why

### MAIN BODY 85%

Answer the question! Answer in a chain of paragraphs that build and present a case. Each paragraph should contain 1 big idea and should:

- Introduce the idea
- Define any concepts
- Offer an argument
- Offer and discuss evidence
- Make a final point

The reader is asking you- and in your writing you should answer- the following questions:

- What is this paragraph about?
- What exactly is that?
- What is your argument on this (in relation to the question)?
- What is your evidence?
- What does it mean?
- What is the final point (in relation to the question)?

### CONCLUSION 10%

Your conclusion should:

- Re-state your arguments
- Re-state your points
- Have no new evidence
- Prove that you have answered the whole question
- Make recommendations if applicable

Some think you should write a draft first so you know where you are going, and re-write it when you're finished.