

WHAT SHOULD AN ESSAY LOOK LIKE?

“Tell them what you are going to say, say it, tell them what you’ve said”

Your reader likes to know where they are going, and how the ideas fit together.

Works from the general to specific

Outside to inside

Big to small

Use paragraphs to structure your work

Use topic sentences to open your paragraphs

These are the rules of thumb- for guidance not strict adherence- you have to choose how you will use your subject matter to make your argument.

Introduction (6-20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Start with a general sentence – place your argument in the wider picture❖ Interpretation of question - + why this approach might be useful❖ State your case – thesis statement❖ Define/ classify key concepts❖ Sets out a map of your answer❖ Entices the reader to read on
Body (~ 80%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Justifies and develops your argument<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is your ‘storyline’?• What does the reader need to know to follow each point?• Have you given them sufficient information?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Draw a flow chart- Work backwards from conclusion to identify key ‘stepping stones’

❖ Find a logical way of leading your reader through the points that you make so that your conclusion is plausible and convincing.

- Think about the pattern your argument will take:

- **Chronological:** Past → Present → Future

- **Linear:** Natural time order, cause → effect, Situation → problem → solution → analysis, Problem → situation → analysis → solution

- **Cyclical processes:** consider: your focus – why are you writing this, what is the relevance and salience of each part of the cycle to your argument? Start and finish with the most important.

- **Compare and Contrast**

Idea 1

Point 1



Point 2



Point 3



Point 4

Idea 2

Point 1



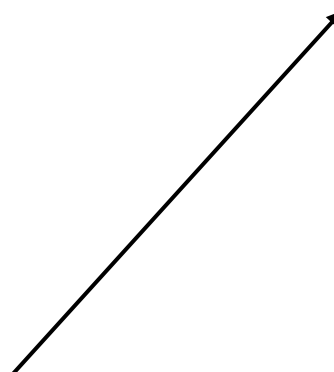
Point 2



Point 3



Point 4



OR

Idea 1

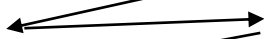
Point 1



Idea 2

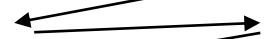
Point 1

Point 2



Point 2

Point 3



Point 3

Point 4



Point 4

❖ Always consider: How convincing is this – intellectually and logically

❖ Think: Relevance, importance, clarity – be selective

<p>Conclusion (8- 15%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ties together the introduction and the body ❖ Summaries key point and draws together the main points of your argument. ❖ Provides an answer to your question. <p>Might include theoretical or applied issues – present or future Should not include new points</p>