

The Writing Centre

The Bare Bones of Paper Writing

INTRODUCTION:

- Introduces your topic and states your thesis (argument).
- Establishes the context of your topic—what makes it worth writing about?
- Your thesis statement will come near or at the end of your introduction, and will tell your reader what your overall argument will be. It is crucial that every paper have a distinct thesis statement so that the purpose of the essay is clear from the beginning.

THESIS STATEMENT- The thesis statement is the sentence or two in your introduction that tells the reader what your main argument will be. Remember, a thesis statement is an assertion, it takes a stand, it is a main idea, it is narrow, and it is specific.

Sample thesis statement: *Writing a good paper, though it takes time and effort, is not difficult. It demands thorough research, careful organization, error-free writing, and proper documentation.* (Norton, S and Green, B. (1993). *The Bare Essentials: English Writing Skills* (3rd ed.). Toronto: Harcourt Brace Javonovich.)

BODY:

- The body of your paper is where the “meat” is found. This is where you get into the details, outline the discussion of the topic you have chosen, and develop your argument.
- Make sure you follow a structure that is clear. Discuss each main point one at a time—it helps to make an outline before starting to write.
- Each section will start with a topic sentence. This is like a mini thesis statement and will tell the reader what each section will discuss. Topic sentences are crucial to maintain clarity throughout your essay.
 - **Sample Topic Sentence:** *Primarily, it may be argued that effective research is one of the main components of writing a good paper.*
- Each section will develop and discuss your argument, and will contain a concluding statement that “wraps up” your argument.
- Depending on the length of your paper, each section might be made up of one paragraph, or of a series of related paragraphs.

CONCLUSION:

- Concludes the essay and ties together all of your arguments.
- Does not introduce new information. This will confuse your reader and makes for a sloppy essay.
- Sums up and reiterates your main points without going into detail. You can look at a conclusion as restating the information found in your context, your topic sentences and your thesis statement.