



Your Essay Structure

Don't forget to state the title and any details requested in your module handbook!

Introduction (5% of the word count)

- ⚙ Comment on the title of the essay and demonstrate to your reader how you are going to answer the question.
- ⚙ Explain or define any ambiguous or difficult terms in the essay title succinctly.
- ⚙ Indicate to your reader where your argument will go throughout the essay, for example: *"This essay will consider the importance of the following factors in relation to..."*
- ⚙ Write this last, once you know the structure, flow and argument of your essay!

Main Body/Argument (80% of the word count)

This will be a chain of connected paragraphs, repeated for each salient point, to build an argument. You should **PEE** in each point, so each paragraph should contain:

- ⚙ **Point:** A concept/argument that is valid to the essay title. Briefly define and explain this and present the argument/position you are making.
- ⚙ **Evidence:** Introduce evidence that supports or refutes your point. Discuss the different perspectives presented in the literature and reference throughout.
- ⚙ **Evaluation:** Present an argument based on your evidence. Why is one more valid than the other? Critique your evidence and pit them against each other. What does this indicate for the essay title? What does this mean for the future? What about the other concepts you are arguing?

Conclusion (15% of the word count)

- ⚙ Restate your arguments and the main points
- ⚙ The conclusion should not introduce any new evidence
- ⚙ Make recommendations or observations, for example, *"Future research could investigate the possibilities of..."*
- ⚙ Demonstrate that you have understood the question by wrapping up in a conclusory statement

Content Adapted From

Burns, T. and Sinfield, S. (2012) *Essential Study Skills: The Complete Guide to Success at University* (3rd Edition). London: Sage. (P. 259)