

<b>A. Introduction</b>	•
<p><b>The opening paragraph contains sentences that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. peak the interest of the audience with a question, or startling fact</li> <li>2. provide brief, factual background information</li> <li>3. give the thesis statement with: Topic, Position, and Area of Investigation (1 or 2 sentences)</li> </ol>	• • • •
<b>B. Body (sequence from least to most important idea)</b>	•
<p><b>Main idea #1 paragraph:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. begins with a topic sentence that provides transition* and link, and states the <i>first</i> idea supporting the thesis</li> <li>2. explains and analyzes this idea</li> <li>3. provides examples, illustrations, and/or quotations</li> <li>4. ends with a concluding sentence that reinforces the first main idea</li> </ol>	• • • •
<p><b>Main idea #2 paragraph:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. begins with a topic sentence that provides transition and link, and states the <i>second</i> idea supporting the thesis</li> <li>2. explains and analyzes this idea</li> <li>3. provides examples, illustrations, and/or quotations</li> <li>4. ends with a concluding sentence that reinforces the second main idea</li> </ol>	• • • •
<p><b>Main idea #3 paragraph:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. begins with a topic sentence that provides transition and link, and states the <i>third</i> idea supporting the thesis</li> <li>2. explains and analyzes the this idea</li> <li>3. provides examples, illustrations, and/or quotations</li> <li>4. ends with a concluding sentence that reinforces the third main idea</li> </ol>	• • • •
<b>C. Conclusion</b>	•
<p><b>The conclusion:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. restates thesis in ways that emphasize its significance</li> <li>2. provides a synthesis of main ideas presented</li> </ol>	• •

**Tip:** The Body of the essay can include as many paragraphs as you need to develop the thesis.

**Tip:** Transition\* words help the reader move to your new idea. These words include: *first, secondly, however, meanwhile, therefore, as a result, to conclude, for example, chiefly, in short, and in other words.*