

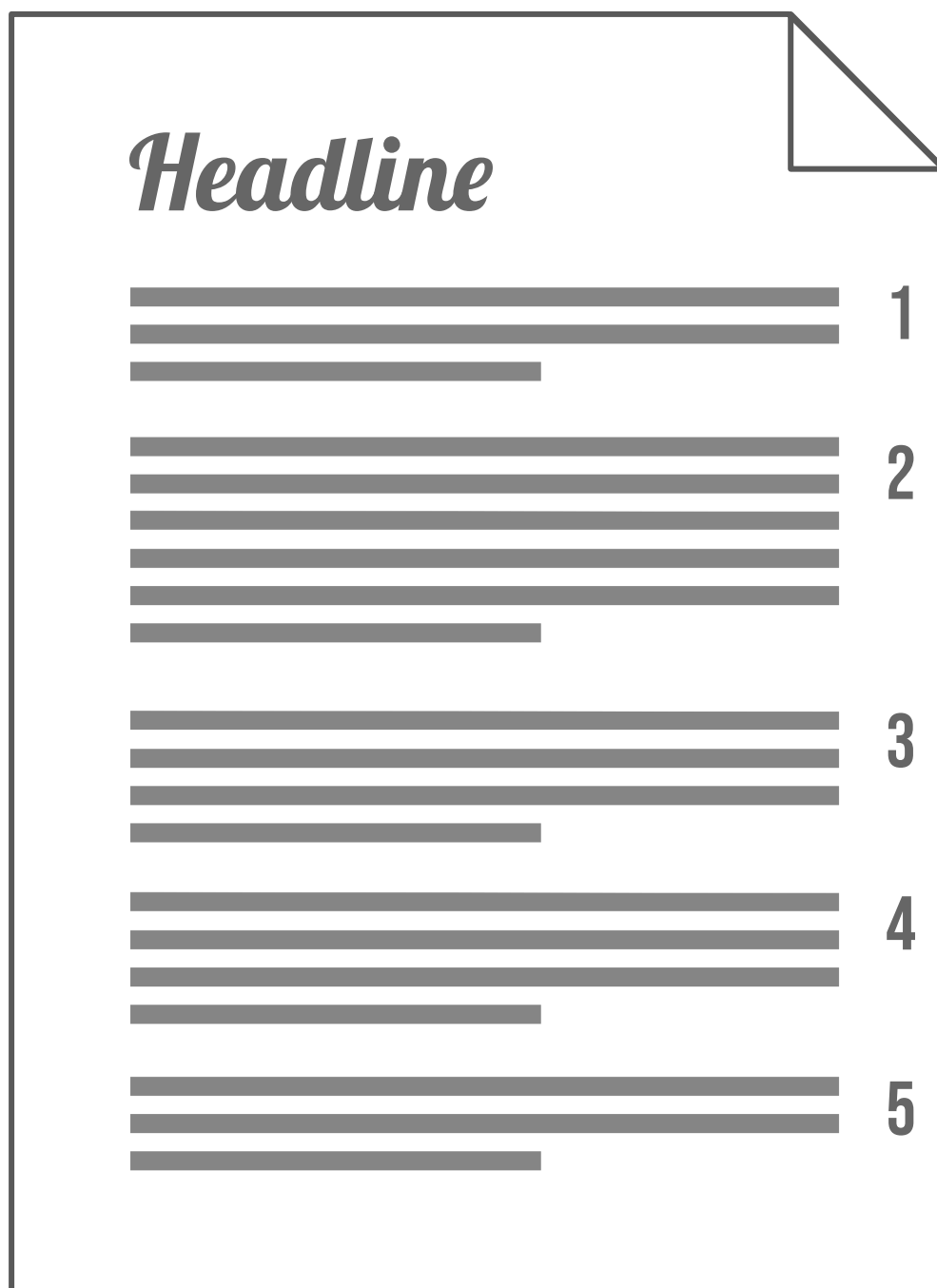
BASIC ESSAY STRUCTURE

A CLICKABLE COLLECTION



BASIC ESSAY STRUCTURE

An essay is divided into paragraphs - blocks of text with an empty line between them. Shorter essays in school often have 4-6 paragraphs. See an example essay in the following slide, or click the links for tips on the different parts.



The first paragraph is the introduction. It should introduce the topic of your essay in an interesting way. [See tips »](#)

The body paragraphs deal with different sub-topics, one per paragraph. [See tips on how to plan your topic »](#)

The conclusion ends your essay. [See tips »](#)

A VERY SHORT EXAMPLE ESSAY



The Swedish Love of Coffee

Did you know that no other nation drinks more coffee than Sweden? But why do Swedes drink so much coffee? This question has intrigued many, and several factors contribute to their coffee consumption.

Firstly, Sweden's cold climate plays a significant role. The chilly weather necessitates warm beverages, and coffee provides comfort and respite from the cold.

Secondly, Sweden's strong coffee culture is deeply ingrained in their daily routines. Fika, the Swedish tradition of taking a coffee break, promotes socialization and relaxation.

In conclusion, the Swedes' love for coffee is not just about the caffeine; it's about the warmth, the comfort, and the camaraderie that coffee brings. So, whether it's for a moment of warmth or a gathering of friends, embrace the Swedish way and savor a hot cup of coffee.

The first paragraph is the introduction. This example starts with an interesting fact and then asks a question that the essay will try to answer.

The body paragraphs present two answers to the question, one per paragraph. In this example, they start with the linking words “firstly” and “secondly”.

The conclusion ends the essay with a summary and a call to action. In this example, the paragraph starts with the linking words “in conclusion”.

CHOOSING YOUR TOPIC

Before starting to write, you need to decide on a topic and a few subtopics for your essay.

TOPIC

The topic could be:

- A subject (“Facts about dogs”)
- A thesis (“School should start later in the morning”)
- A question (“Why do Swedes drink coffee?”).

SUBTOPICS

Use the subtopic boxes to write down important points to bring up in your essay:

- Facts (about dogs)
- Arguments (for why school should start later)
- Possible answers (to why Swedes drink coffee)

SUBTOPIC = PARAGRAPH

A good rule of thumb is that each subtopic gets its own paragraph in your essay. 2-4 subtopics is enough for most shorter essays.

TEXT TYPES

The three types of topics creates three types of texts:

- Informative text: subject + facts
- Argumentative text: thesis + arguments
- Discussion text: question + possible answers



PLANNING YOUR SUBTOPICS

Use the template to write down ideas for a topic and 2-4 subtopics for your essay.

TOPIC:

SUBTOPIC:

SUBTOPIC:

SUBTOPIC:

SUBTOPIC:

FIVE WAYS TO WRITE INTRODUCTIONS

How do you start an essay? The first paragraph should both tell the readers the topic of the text and catch their interest. Below are five ways of doing that.

■ An observation or statement

The rise of social media has changed the way we interact with each other in profound ways.

This approach can help to establish the broader context of your essay.

■ A rhetorical question

Have you ever considered the impact that climate change is having on our planet?

A question can get your reader thinking about the topic of your essay.

■ An interesting fact

According to the largest sleep study yet, the average person should actually sleep between 12 p.m and 8 a.m.

By starting with an interesting fact, you make the reader want to learn more.

■ A summary of events

In the spring of 1992, riots spread throughout Los Angeles.

Retell an important or dramatic event, before explaining the background in your essay.

■ A quotation

“Early risers tend to be more punctual, get better grades in school and climb up the corporate ladder.” This quote from an article by Alex Williams sums up why going to bed early might come with a lot of benefits.

Using a well-worded, provocative, or informative quote is a good way to create interest.

FOUR WAYS TO END YOUR ESSAY

Summarize

In all types of essays, a short summary of your essay is a good way to conclude the text.

Repeat thesis and call to action

In argumentative essays, end by repeating your thesis. You can also suggest a way that the reader can take action to support your case.

Propose a solution

In discussion essays, end with giving a possible answer to the question or problem you have written about.

Ask a question

End your essay with an open question that will encourage your reader to think more deeply about the topic. This can be a great way to leave a lasting impression on your reader.