

Constructing a strong essay is similar to making a sandwich. All of the parts have an important job and rely on each other to produce a structure that holds together. A well-built essay thoughtfully combines ingredients and holds ideas together so readers can consume the concepts conveniently.

Introduction

See
"Introduction"
handout

The introduction is like the foundational slice of bread; it introduces the topic and captures your audience's attention. It should have the following elements:

- ☞ **Opening Sentence** that gives readers a general idea of the essay's subject matter, grab their interest, and set the tone of the writing (avoid clichés like "Throughout history...");
- ☞ **Focusing Sentences** that give readers relevant background information on the subject and guide them toward the focal point of the paper;
- ☞ **Opposing viewpoints** that others have on the subject of your essay, which provide the framework for your upcoming thesis;
- ☞ **Thesis Statement** that states your controlling idea or position and lays out a road map of how the essay will support your perspective.

Body

See "Body
Paragraph"
handout

Body paragraphs are like the middle of your sandwich; they develop and explain your thesis with supporting points and evidence. Each body paragraph should develop only **one idea** with relevant **evidence** and an **analysis** of that evidence. All evidence needs an analysis or explanation to connect it to your core idea. Include and **cite** sources. A typical body paragraph will include the following elements:

- ☞ **Topic Sentence** announces the main idea of the paragraph
- ☞ **Evidential Sentences** provide relevant evidence usually cited that establishes context for your topic
- ☞ **Analytical Sentences** explain evidence in context of your thesis
- ☞ **Concluding Sentence** restates the main idea

Conclusion

See "Conclusion"
handout

The conclusion is like the last slice of bread; it leaves a final impression on the reader. In many ways, the conclusion mirrors the introduction.

- ☞ **Restate thesis and major supporting ideas and points** without repeating the introduction;
- ☞ **Close with a lasting impact, which could be a piece of advice or an assertion about the importance of your stance** in order to leave readers with a sense of having learned something important from your work.

Remember! *New ideas should not be in the conclusion. Every idea here should have been analyzed in the body of your essay.*

Example

Pizza: Affordable and Culturally Adaptable

Opening Sentence	Pizza is everywhere in New York City: busy commuters devour folded pizza slices while hailing cabs, college students are lured to club events by pizza's delicious aroma, and Mayor DeBlasio creates a controversy every time he eats pizza with a fork and knife.
Focusing Sentence	Pizza has gained enormous popularity since the 19th century, not only in NYC, but all over the world.
Opposing Viewpoints	Opponents of pizza allege that it is fattening, messy, and low-quality. Despite this reputation,
Thesis Statement	pizza should be praised for its affordability and cultural adaptability.
Topic Sentence	First, pizza is one of the most affordable foods available: it can cost as little as \$1 per slice in NYC.
Evidential Sentence	A researcher at the Institute of Nutrition Studies, Alicia Jalowsky, shows that the average fast food burger costs about \$7, while a complete pizza meal with a drink costs about \$2.75 (39).
Analytical Sentences	This is a standout bargain, even when compared to other cheap options. A person can feed a family of four with one large pizza for less than \$20. New Yorkers seeking an affordable
Concluding Sentence	meal know they can always turn to pizza.
Topic Sentence	Moreover, just as the NYC slice has evolved from the classic Italian Margherita pie, pizza around the world has been customized to reflect different cultures. For example, one could
Evidential Sentence	find smoked deer and cod on a pizza in Sweden; kangaroo, snake, and crocodile in Australia; and squid ink and seaweed in Japan (Salucci, 223). By reflecting different cultures through
Analytical Sentence	various ingredients and presentation, consumers feel a deeper, cultural connection with their communities. Clearly, pizza is a type of food that can reflect one's cultural identity.
Concluding Sentence	
Restated Thesis	Although critics exaggerate pizza's few negative qualities and ignore its numerous positive aspects, pizza is affordable and culturally varied. This food will only improve as future
Lasting Impact	generations continue to make new and innovative pizzas.

Works Cited

Jalowsky, Alicia. "Pizza Is a Healthy Choice, Believe It or Not." *Journal of Nutrition Studies* 34.3 (2012): 1-23. Print.
 Salucci, Romulus, Giovanni Alligieari, and Adolfo Di Stefano. *History of Italian Cuisine: A Fresh Cut*. 3rd ed. Venice, Italy: Culinary Publishing House, Inc., 2005.