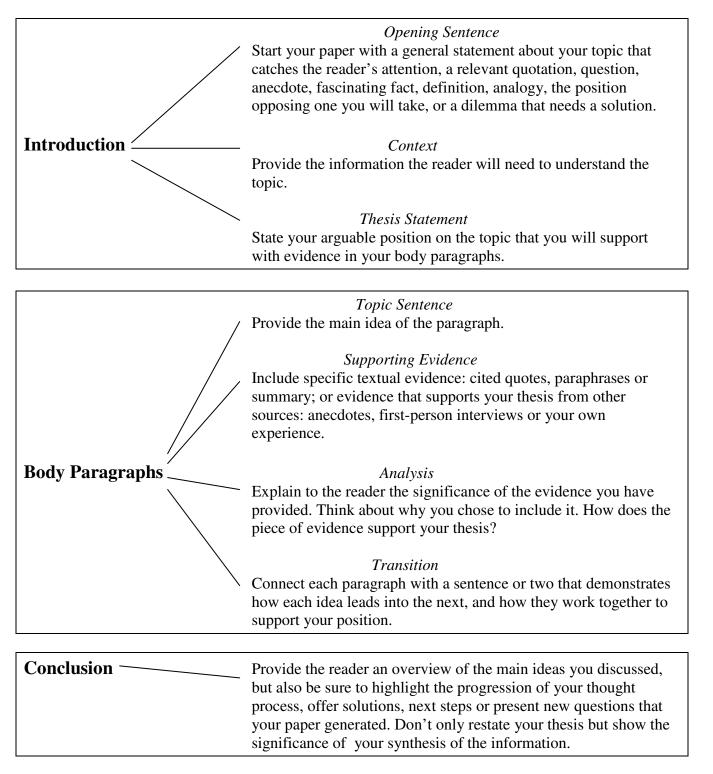


## Structure of a General Expository Essay

The following maps a commonly used structure for many academic essays. Use this outline to guide you as you compose your own argument, research or even descriptive essay.



**My Outline** *Try applying this structure to your own writing: write sentences for the corresponding elements of your introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion in the space provided below.* 

Introduction:	
Begin your paper with a <b>opening</b> <b>sentence</b> or <b>"hook"</b> about your topic that catches the reader's attention. Reference the list on the front for ideas.	
Include <b>context:</b> provide the information the reader will need to understand the topic.	
State your <b>thesis</b> , your arguable position on the topic. <i>What side will you</i> <i>take? What will you prove in your</i> <i>paper? What are you going to explore?</i>	
One Practice Body paragraph:	
Write a general <b>topic sentence</b> that states the main idea of the paragraph for your first body paragraph, or for one you are having difficulty organizing.	
Write down the specific textual <b>evidence</b> or evidence from other sources that you are using to support your thesis.	
<b>Analyze</b> your evidence: tell the reader what is significant or important about this evidence. <i>How does the piece of</i> <i>evidence support your thesis? Why did</i> <i>you choose to include it?</i>	
Don't forget a <b>transition sentence:</b> Connect each paragraph with a sentence or two that demonstrates how each idea leads into the next.	
Conclusion:	
<ul> <li>Make connections for the reader in your conclusion. You should refer back to your thesis, but don't simply restate it. Use some of the following questions to guide you:</li> <li>Did you propose any solutions? Are there solutions yet to be discovered?</li> <li>What questions still need to be answered?</li> <li>What is the larger significance of the topic you chose to write about?</li> <li>What should the reader do or think after reading your paper?</li> </ul>	