

Structuring your assignment

Typically, Your essay should be broken into three parts:

Section	Points to consider
<p>Introduction (10 / 15% of word count)</p>	<p>The introduction is an outline of the points that will be covered in the essay.</p> <p>Begin with a general overview of the topic. Define key concepts that are important in your essay. Include a general statement introducing the topic that will be covered e.g. <i>'Exam stress may be defined as...'</i>. Use quotes, ONLY if they are relevant</p> <p>Explain why the topic is important</p> <p>Outline the argument you will present</p> <p>State what will be covered in the essay in the order it will be presented e.g. "Firstly the essay will explore the effects of social media as a possible risk factor for mental health disorders. Secondly..."</p>
<p>Main Body (70 / 75% of Word Count)</p>	<p>The main body is made up of each of the points you are making and the references to back up your points.</p> <p>Start writing this first. This will make structuring the introduction easier.</p> <p>Go from the general to the specific – start with an overview of the topic in general before you explore more specific aspects.</p> <p>Each paragraph should explore ONE KEY POINT.</p> <p>Structure paragraphs using your references. You might include all of the evidence in favour of your argument in one paragraph and then present your counter-argument in another paragraph. Alternatively you might present both sides of the argument in one point.</p>
<p>Conclusion (10 / 15% of your word count)</p>	<p>Synthesise the main points of your argument, don't add in any new information here.</p> <p>Outline what you have concluded from your research.</p> <p>Include personal recommendations and suggestions for the future.</p>

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Your argument in your essay may be organised in two different ways:

1. The Block structure

This is where the paragraphs in the main body are divided separately into for or against. This is where you present all of the evidence for one side of the argument at the first half of the essay and then present all of the evidence for the counterargument in the second half of the essay (See left hand side below).

2. The Point-by-Point structure

This is where each main body paragraph has an argument followed by the counter argument (See right hand side below)

