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student writing support



## ACADEMIC ESSAY STRUCTURES & FORMATS

Standard American argumentative essays begin with an **introduction** that gives a main point (**thesis**). The thesis is supported by a series of **body paragraphs** with sub-points, and the essay ends with a **conclusion**. Below is a visual representation of this structure, adapted from the Seattle University Writing Center; on the back is an example of the typical format for an academic paper.

paper idea diagram

topic: \_\_\_\_\_

introduction: \_\_\_\_\_

subtopics - supporting arguments:

details:

conclusion: \_\_\_\_\_

(continued on next page)

## Academic Paper Format

Here is an example of what an academic paper typically looks like. Using standard fonts, margins, and indentations helps your paper gain credibility with an academic audience; readers who are comfortable with your paper's format can pay close attention to the ideas you're communicating.

