

Personal Research Project

Research and Planning

+ Keeping a Record



As you go through the research phase of your Personal Research Project, you will be reading lots of material to find out key information as well as to understand different points of view, and you will need to have an efficient system of note-keeping to allow you to refer back to the material quickly and accurately. This will make your planning much easier later on.

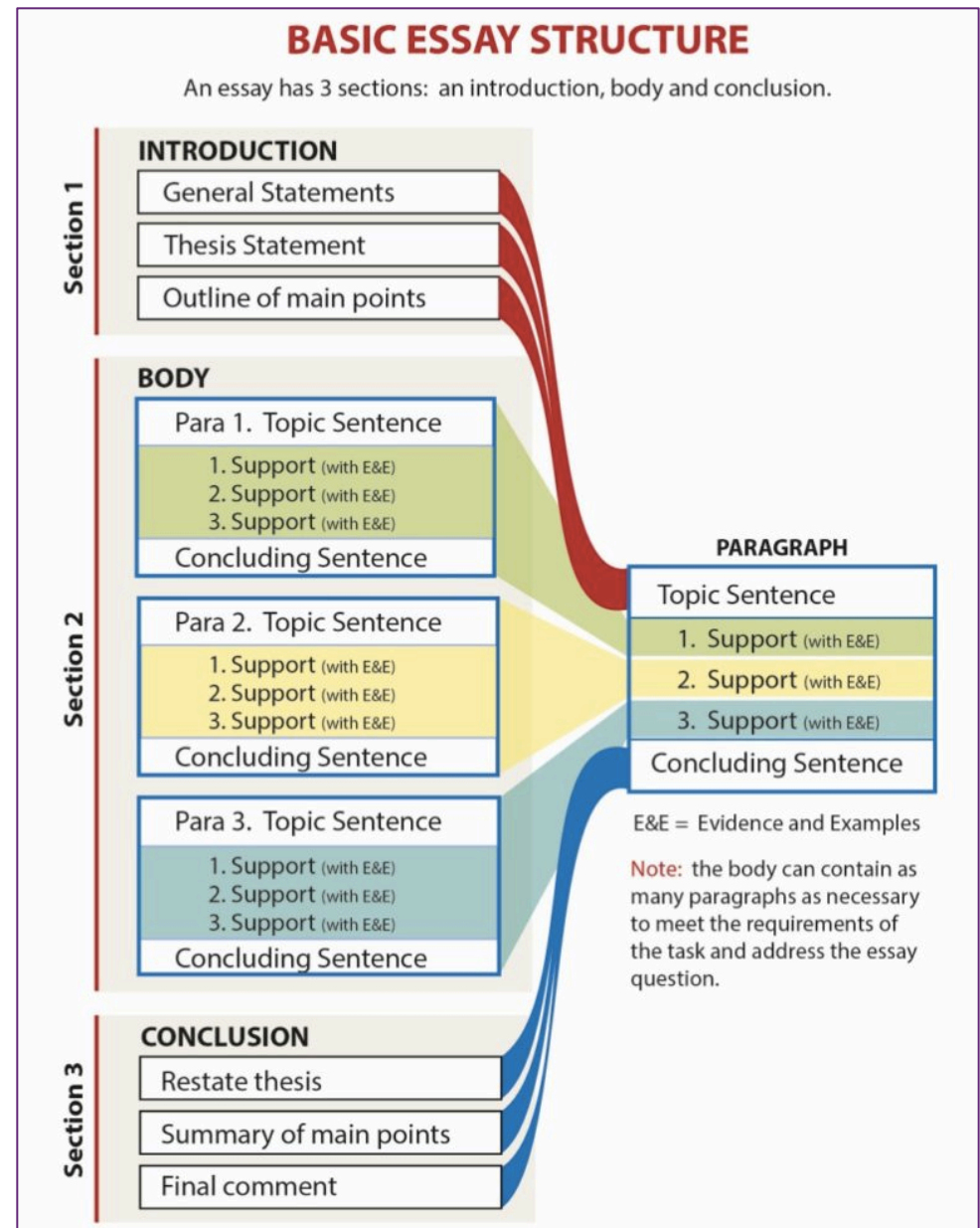
As you research your project, make a note of the following:

- The author and title of each work
- Where you found it, e.g. page numbers, web links, etc.
- Key information and ideas – being careful to use quotation marks for anything that you have copied directly
- Your reflections – what questions have you been left with?



Planning

When planning an essay, start by deciding on the overall shape of your argument – what is it that you want to say, and how can you organise what you are saying to best effect?



+ Top Tips and a Good Example

Read '**A short guide to essay planning and structure**' from the University of Birmingham and note down all of the top tips that will help you to plan and structure your essays clearly and convincingly. You will be able to use these in the future, either in your Personal Research Project or at A-Level.

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/asc/documents/public/Short-Guide-Essay-Planning.pdf>

To see a good example of a well planned and structured essay, read the article '**What will films be like in 20 years?**' by Luke Buckmaster. Look out for any moments where you can see Buckmaster doing things that are recommended by the guide.

<http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20190508-what-will-films-be-like-in-20-years>

Now put these tips into practice in your own planning!