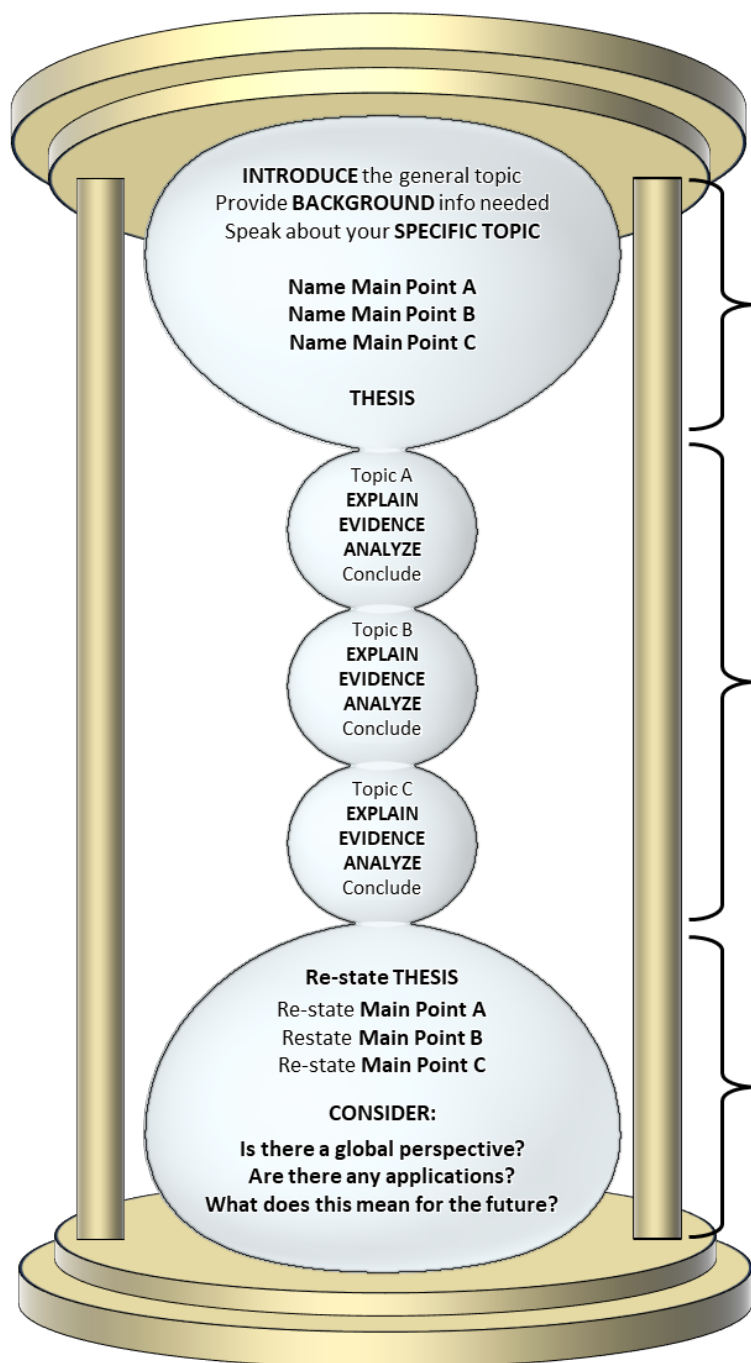


Structuring Your Essay

Are you uncertain about how to organize your essay? Having a good structure helps the reader to remain connected to the ideas and follow the flow of information. This method of organization uses the shape of an hourglass to represent the focus of the essay, widening and narrowing as the reader is guided through the argument. You can use this technique for many essays, and it can easily be adjusted.



Introduction Paragraph:

The purpose of the introduction is to inform your reader what you will be talking about in your essay. Start with a broad, universal theme or issue and gradually narrow your focus until you arrive at the most important part of your essay: the thesis.

What is it that you are going to prove?

Your main points are the arguments you are using to support your thesis.

Body Paragraphs:

Paragraph A:

Here you will prove your main point A. Start with a topic sentence that clearly links main point A to your thesis. Elaborate on your main point and use evidence to back up your claim. Show how your evidence supports your argument. Conclude by summing up main point A.

Repeat this process for each paragraph.

There should be one paragraph for each point.

Conclusion Paragraph:

The purpose of the conclusion is to remind your reader of your argument and to examine its importance. Re-state your thesis and arguments and check that your points support your thesis.

Do not introduce any new ideas.

End your essay on a broad note, and answer your reader's hypothetical question of "how does your thesis relate to the general subject or theme?"

For assistance with your essay, book an appointment with a writing tutor at: tlc.kpu.ca

Structuring Your Essay

Sample Outline

Introduction Paragraph:

Broad theme: _____

Specific topic: _____

Main point A: _____

Main point B: _____

Main point C: _____

Thesis: _____

Paragraph A:

Paragraph A will prove: _____

Concepts relating to main point A: _____

Paragraph B:

Paragraph B will prove: _____

Concepts relating to main point B: _____

Paragraph C:

Paragraph C will prove: _____

Concepts relating to main point C: _____

Conclusion:

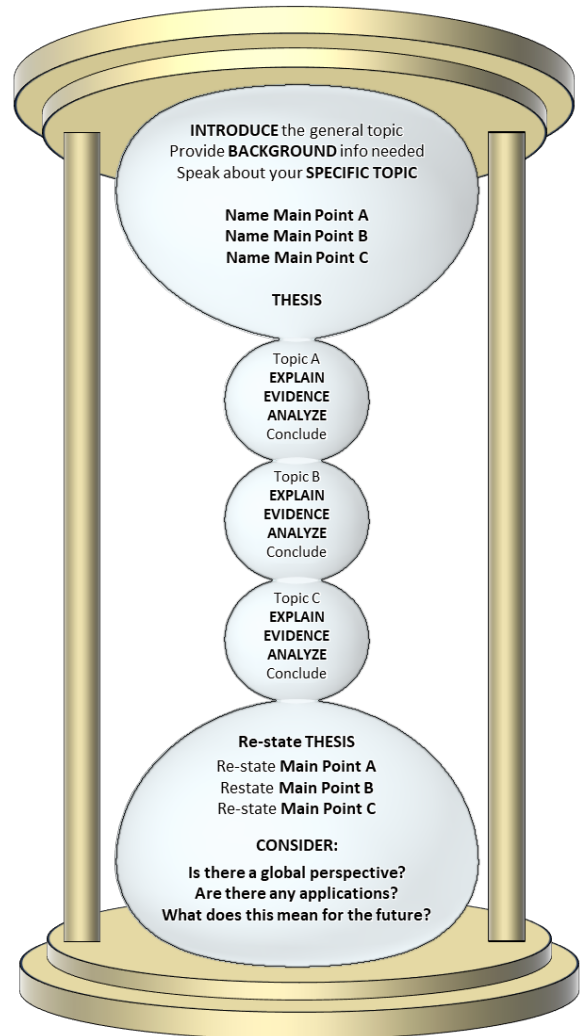
Re-state thesis: _____

Why is main point A important? _____

Why is main point B important? _____

Why is main point C important? _____

Why is your argument important? _____



Introduction Paragraph:

What is it that you're going to prove?

Body Paragraphs:

Do your paragraphs support your argument?

Conclusion Paragraph:

How did you prove your thesis?