

Basic Essay Structure - CCS W8.1

Grading Items 5, Top Score: 5

Thesis Statement

Score 5: Clear thesis which establishes the writer's position and acknowledges possible alternative positions.

Score 4: Mostly clear thesis which establishes the writer's position.

Score 3: Thesis statement is evident, but the author's position is not entirely clear.

Score 2: Incomplete attempt at a thesis statement.

Score 1: No clear thesis apparent.

Overall Structure

Score 5: Ideas are logically ordered. Clear introduction/thesis, body/support, and conclusion paragraphs.

Score 4: Ideas follow a mostly logical structure. Four of the five component paragraphs appear.

Score 3: Ideas have some structure, but at least two key paragraphs are missing.

Score 2: Many key structural elements are missing.

Score 1: No evident structure.

Supporting Evidence

Score 5: All claims are backed with properly quoted passages of text.

Score 4: Most key claims are backed with properly cited text.

Score 3: A few text citations were made, but many assertions do not have strong supporting evidence.

Score 2: Only one or two ideas are supported with evidence.

Score 1: No text evidence supports key claims.

Formal Style

Score 5: Author provides a concluding statement that follows from and supports argument presented.

Score 4: Essay follows most conventions of formal style.

Score 3: Author has clearly attempted to use formal style, but fails in several places.

Score 2: Little attempt made to use formal style.

Score 1: No attempt at using formal essay style.

Conclusion

Score 5: Author provides a concluding statement that follows from and supports argument presented.

Score 4: Concluding statement mostly follows from and supports the author's argument.

Score 3: Essay contains a concluding statement, but it only somewhat supports the argument presented.

Score 2: Concluding statement introduces a new idea or fails to support the argument presented.

Score 1: No attempt at using formal essay style.