



## TIPS FOR WRITING AN ESSAY

The following material is intended as a review to help you refresh your writing skills prior to the assessment. It is not meant to teach you new material. If you run into difficulties, it's time to stop and make an appointment for your assessment.

You will be provided two options for your English assessment on the [Assessment Centre](#) website; select the option that you feel is the best fit for you. If you are unsure which assessment option to choose, contact an assessor by emailing [accessassessment@camosun.ca](mailto:accessassessment@camosun.ca) or calling (250) 370-3945.

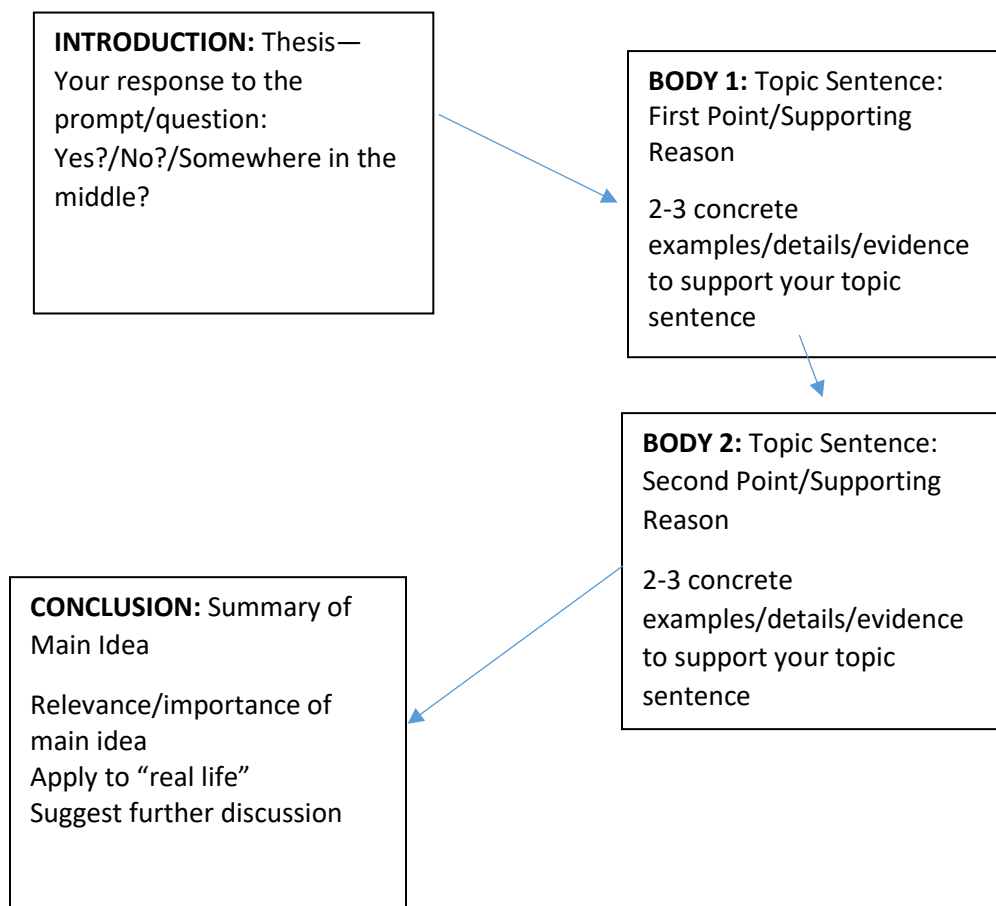
You may also contact a Student Navigator at (250) 370-3466 or (250) 370-3847 to get help with selecting the best starting point for assessment.

## Tips for Writing an Essay

You will likely be required to write an essay as part of your English assessment. Generally, you are given an open-ended topic question that asks for your opinion or view. The following plan can assist you with this task.

- Brainstorm and jot down your ideas on a separate piece of paper. This step helps you to identify and organize your main ideas.
- Decide what your thesis statement will be. *Not sure what a thesis statement is?* Read the section below, titled, “Some information regarding the parts of an essay”.
- Develop a plan for your essay. The plan should include an introductory paragraph containing your thesis statement, a body containing one to three paragraphs that support your thesis, and a concluding paragraph.

### Sample Structure: Aim for 3-5 evenly and well-developed paragraphs



The above example is a four-paragraph essay. You may choose to write a three, four, or five – paragraph essay.

## **SOME INFORMATION REGARDING THE PARTS OF AN ESSAY:**

### **Introduction**

An introduction tells the reader the topic of the essay, explains how the discussion will proceed, and what conclusion you will reach.

### **Thesis statement**

Every essay should present a main point, idea, or central message. The sentence that expresses your view or position on this main idea is called a *thesis statement*. Your thesis statement communicates your position or view in one or two sentences. It serves to keep your writing focused.

### **Body of the Essay**

The body of the essay supports your thesis. It contains paragraphs that each state a reason or point supporting your thesis. Body paragraphs provide the details, information, and evidence for the position you are taking. A common format for the body is three paragraphs, with each paragraph focused on one point. However, a short essay may only have one to two paragraphs in the body. No matter the length, it is important to:

- Clearly state your view and support it with examples.
- Stay on topic.
- Keep related ideas together.

### **Conclusion**

The conclusion sums up the main idea of your essay, and it should reinforce your thesis. Starting the conclusion with the phrase, “In conclusion” is an effective way to begin the concluding paragraph.

Check out the following link for more help with writing an essay:

<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/writing-strategies-the-writing-process/>

[Writeplacer Sample Essays](#)