

# Writing Effective Academic Papers

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Students can have difficulty with properly organizing the information in their papers and clearly connecting their material in theses that address the purposes of their writing assignments. Tutees should master basic essay organization and thesis development because proper organization and a clear thesis is essential for effectively conveying information in an academic paper. A student needs to be able to develop a thesis statement that clearly addresses the purpose of the writing assignment and connects his or her main points. It is necessary for a student to be able to write an introduction and conclusion, which each should contain the thesis statement, individually summarize the main points, and contain introductory or conclusive statements. A student also needs to be able to create a topic sentence for each of his or her main points that specifically states each point and connects it back to the thesis. Students also need to keep in mind that the order in which they discuss their main points and state information about the main points in their thesis, introduction, and conclusion should be consistent to simplify reader comprehension. To be able to effectively communicate information in essays and meet writing assignment requirements, students need to master developing clear theses, connecting their main points in introductions and conclusions, writing specific topic sentences for their main points, and presenting their information in an order consistent throughout each essay.

## Thesis:

The thesis addresses the purpose of the writing assignment and is one of the most important parts of an academic essay.

The thesis connects main points together through the assignment purpose.

The thesis is the last sentence of the introduction, and it is restated in the first sentence of the conclusion.

The thesis should not contain any new information about the main points; the main points should be individually summarized in the introduction prior to the thesis statement.

The thesis should not contain information about the main points that is too specific, and the primary focus of the thesis should be addressing the purpose of the assignment. The main points should be listed specifically in the thesis without making it too long or more difficult to understand. Writing a specific but relatively concise thesis statement can be the most difficult part of writing an effective academic essay.

## Introduction and Conclusion:

The introduction and conclusion in an academic essay allow a reader to easily connect the main points together through the purpose or topic of the essay.

- For argumentative papers, writers' own arguments or main points can be presented before they write a paragraph discussing an argument against their own followed by a paragraph describing their counterargument.

The ability of students to write clear thesis statements, connect main points in an introduction and conclusion, create a specific topic sentence for each main point, and organize information in a consistent manner is essential for clearly and effectively communicating information in essays. Students need to be able write thesis statements that address the purposes of their writing assignments and connect their main points. Students also need to be able write introductions and conclusions that contain their thesis statements and summarize their main points. Writing a specific topic sentence for each main point that connects back to the thesis statement is also necessary to explicitly state the point of each body paragraph. It is also important for students to realize that consistency in the order in which information is presented in their theses, introductions, conclusions, and essay bodies is important for essay coherence and reader comprehension. While it can be challenging for many students, mastering these practices and applying them to different types of essays will help students to more effectively address writing assignment requirements and clearly present their material.

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