**Structure of a Research Essay**

All essays and research papers consist of three parts:

* an introduction
* body paragraphs
* conclusion.

**The Introduction:**

* is the first paragraph of our essay
* it is beginning with a general statement about your topic
* provides background information for your reader
* concludes with the thesis (last sentence of the introduction)

**The Thesis**

* is the last sentence of the paragraph
* one sentence only
* is a strong statement that you can prove
* is the answer to your research question
* is the controlling idea of the research and is a map to the route the research essay will follow?
* is specific and expresses one major idea about the subject

**The Body**

* is where the evidence to prove the thesis is presented
* is where the information supports or proves the thesis statement
* this supporting information can be analysis, argument, evaluation, persuasion and comparison/contrast
* the body of the paper is well organized with each paragraph consisting of a topic sentence, supporting and concluding sentences and a transition to the next paragraph
* **all support for your thesis, whether quoted or paraphrased, must be cited**

**Conclusion**

* this is the last paragraph of the paper and summarizes how your paper proved the thesis
* restates thesis
* leave the reader with a last thought (the "hmmmm" factor)
* no new information is given in this paragraph.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Introduction** | General statement about the topic  Background information for your reader  Thesis |
|  |  |
| **Body** | First Paragraph - Main Point       Supporting Details       Supporting Details       Concluding Sentence       Transition |
| **You can devote 2 or 3 paragraphs to each main point if you choose** |  |
|  | Second Paragraph - Main Point       Supporting Details       Supporting Details       Concluding Sentence       Transition |
|  |  |
|  | Third Paragraph - Main Point       Supporting Details       Supporting Details       Concluding Sentence       Transition |
|  |  |
| **Conclusion** | Summary of the main points used to prove the thesis  Last thought ("hmmmm" factor) |

**\*\*\*\*\*Remember, the Science Research Paper needs an *Abstract*\*\*\*\*\***

**Abstract**

* **a self-contained, short, and powerful statement that describes a larger work.**
* **abstract of a scientific work often contains the scope, purpose, results, and contents of the work.**
* **is not a review**
* **Contains key words found in the larger work**
* **The abstract is an original document rather than an excerpted passage.**
* **Is located after the *Title Page* and before the *Introduction***
* **is short and to the point – provides an overview of the essay**

**Example of an Abstract from a Science Research Essay on Battery Life**

Advertisers are always touting more powerful and longer lasting batteries, but which batteries really do last longer, and is battery life impacted by the speed of the current drain? This essay reveals which AA battery maintains its voltage for the longest period of time in low, medium, and high current drain devices. The research is based on an experiment where the batteries were tested in a CD player (low drain device), a flashlight (medium drain device), and a camera flash (high drain device) by measuring the battery voltage (dependent variable) at different time intervals (independent variable) for each of the battery types in each of the devices. My thesis states that *Energizer* will last the longest in all of the devices tested. The research results support my thesis by showing that the Energizer performs with increasing superiority, the higher the current drain of the device. The research also reveals that the heavy-duty non-alkaline batteries do not maintain their voltage as long as either alkaline battery at any level of current drain.