### **UCD Writing Centre**

Email: writing.centre@ucd.ie

#### **Essay Structure**

- <u>1.</u> Introduce your topic: what is your essay about?
- **2.** Background: what is known about this topic?
- <u>3.</u> Thesis (argument/claim) or key findings.
  - <u>4.</u> Outline essay's main points.

NOTE: The UCD Writing Centre provides more detailed, individual handouts for each section of the essay, i.e. Introductions, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusions.

## Body Paragraphs

Introduction

- 1. Point: Make your point/argument (topic sentence).
- <u>2.</u> Evidence: Support what you are saying with evidence from sources, e.g. assigned texts, lab experiments, case notes, statistics, theory, etc.
- <u>3.</u> Analysis: Expand on your point/argument, explain what you mean in full (<u>what</u> is happening, <u>how</u> + <u>why</u>? So what?). Relate your analysis back to the central <u>thesis</u> statement/ key findings of essay.

#### Conclusion

- Re-state your thesis/ key findings (not verbatim).
- **2.** Summarise how the essay proves your thesis.
- <u>3.</u> Suggest broader implications of your research.

REMEMBER: This structure is merely a foundational recommendation, and you should always consult the rubrics provided by your lecturer.

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### **Example**

- <u>1.</u> This essay provides a critical analysis of...
- 2. Research to date suggests....
  - 3. This essay argues...
- **<u>4.</u>** More specifically, the essay examines the following points...

# Body Paragraphs

Introduction

- 1. Trends in X clearly demonstrate that... The prevalence of Y indicates...
- <u>2.</u> For example, the author writes... This is evident in the lines/ section... Tellingly, statistics show/reveal... For instance, a study indicates... This trend/ theory is supported by Scholar A, who claims that... Additionally, Scholar B argues...
- <u>3.</u> Such evidence reveals that... This is happening because... This is significant because... This supports the central claim of this essay insofar as...

#### Conclusion

- 1. This essay has argued that...
- <u>2.</u> The essay has analysed three key points to show...
- <u>3.</u> The broader significance of this research is that it reveals/ informs/ contributes to....