

Essay Structures — At a Glance

Discursive • Persuasive • Critical • Personal/Reflective — hooks, flows, and finishes on one sheet.

Discursive (balanced)

Intro: define issue, why it matters, signpost both sides.
P1 For: topic sentence → evidence → evaluation → link.
P2 Against: topic sentence → evidence → evaluation → link.
P3 Nuance: grey areas/conditions.
Conclusion: summarise & deliver a reasoned judgement.
Starters: On the one hand... / Conversely... / A balanced view recognises...

Persuasive (one strong case)

Intro: hook + clear stance + roadmap.
Body x3: strong claim → evidence → rhetorical device → rebuttal.
Conclusion: amplify stance; call to action.
Techniques: emotive lexis, triads, anaphora, rhetorical Qs, anecdote.

Critical (literature)

Intro: text/author/genre + 1line summary + answer the task.
PEAR paragraphs: Point → Evidence → Analysis → Refer back.
Conclusion: synthesise insights; echo wording of task.
Verbs: reveals / implies / juxtaposes / symbolises / foreshadows.

Personal / Reflective

Opening: vivid hook (image, dialogue, action).
Middle: what happened + feelings.
Reflection: what changed / what you learned.
Ending: circular echo of the opening image.
Voice: sensory detail, honesty, precise moments.

Hooks & Closers (all essays)

Hooks: startling fact • short anecdote • precise question.
Closers: synthesis line • implication • circular return.
Template intro: ‘This essay argues that... by examining...’
Template close: ‘Ultimately... therefore...’

Transitions & Flow

Add: moreover, further, additionally.
Contrast: however, conversely, nevertheless.
Cause/Effect: therefore, consequently, thus.
Refer back: This *directly* addresses the task by...

Tip: Plan for 5 minutes — then write to your plan.