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An Introduction to Academic Writing

Second stage

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Chapter Nine

The 9th Lecture

Writing an Essay

An essay is a "**short formal piece of writing..dealing with a single subject**". It is typically written to try to **persuade the reader using selected research evidence**. In general, an academic essay has **three parts**:

1. An **introduction** that gives the reader an idea of what they are about to learn and presents an argument in the form of a thesis statement
2. A **body, or middle section**, that provides evidence used to prove and persuade the reader to accept the writer's particular point of view
3. A **conclusion** that summarizes the content and findings of the essay

writing essay is no more difficult than writing a paragraph excepts that essay is longer. The principles and organization of an essay is the same for both.

An essay has three main :

1- introductory paragraph

the introductory paragraph consists of two parts:

a- general statements : general statements are some sentences which have specific roles such as introducing the topic of the essay, and capturing the readre's attention.

b. thesis statement. The thesis statement is a very important sentence in the essay since it has five important functions :

1- states the specific topic

2-may list some subtopics of the main topic

3-may indicate the pattern of organization of the essay

4-may indicate the writer's position or point of view

5-thesis statement is the last sentence in the introductory paragraph

among the different styles of introductory paragraph ,two styles will be introduced in the lecture:

Funnel Introduction

a funnel introduction is so called because it is shaped like a funnel- wide at the top and narrow at the bottom. It begins with one or two very general sentences about the topic. Each subsequent sentence becomes increasingly focused on the topic until the last sentence, which states very specifically what the essay will be about.

Attention -Getting Introduction

another kind of introduction is one that captures the readers' attention by three techniques:

telling a dramatic or funny story, using surprising facts or statistics, and offering historical background.

Thesis Statement

the thesis statement is the most important sentence in the introductory paragraph. It states the specific topic of the essay and gives the writer's point of view.