



Future Story Essay - Organization

There is no one way to organize your essay. Remember that all essays should have an introduction, including both a lead that “hooks” your reader and a clear thesis that tells the reader what the essay is about. The number of paragraphs in the body of your essay may vary depending on how you decide to organize it, but you should have at least three (one for each of the three parts). Finally, you need to include a conclusion that gives the reader a sense of completion on the subject.

Effective Leads or Hooks:

Some common strategies used to attract the reader’s interest to an essay are:

- Relate a dramatic anecdote.
- Expose a commonly held belief.
- Present surprising facts and statistics.
- Use a fitting quotation.
- Ask a provocative question.
- Tell a vivid personal story.
- Define a key term.
- Present an interesting observation.

Effective Conclusions:

- **End with a summary.** A typical and traditional way to conclude an essay is by restating the thesis and summarizing its main support points (which are also the least dispensable components of a conclusion). Such an ending very often occurs in a relatively long essay containing a number of important points; it may also occur in some short essays as well. However when using this form of conclusion, be sure to summarize the thesis statement from the introduction and the key points from

all the main body paragraphs differently. Avoid the trap of repeating the thesis and main ideas word for word.

- **End with further comments from the writer.** Such comments (which can include opinions, suggestions and predictions you may want to make about your plan) should be natural and logical extensions of the information in the body of your essay.
- **End with fervor.** Strategies for getting the reader's attention in introductions can also be used to end your essay uniquely and memorably (e.g. stating an apt quotation, a provocative question, a dramatic anecdote, and/or some startling facts about the subject).
- **End where you began.** Sometimes called 'echoing' or 'framing', this type of ending picks up an idea/image suggested in the introduction and echoes it in the conclusion. For example, you can refer back to the anecdote/example you have mentioned previously and show how it is still relevant or how it could have been different. You can also provide a solution to the problem you have raised or give your own answer to a question you have asked. This form of conclusion gives the essay symmetry and provides the reader with a sense of closure.