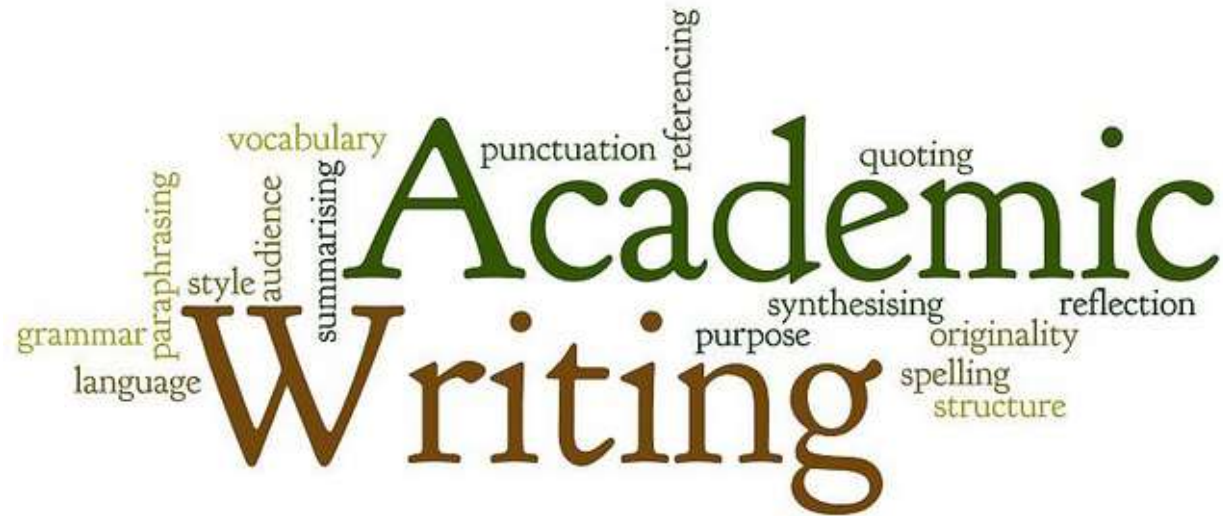


Essay Organisation



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Academic and Scientific Writing

❖ Difference from other forms of writing

- Formal writing
- Content
- Structure
- Organisation
- Language

Five Steps to Successful Writing

1. Preparation
2. Research
3. Organization
4. Writing
5. Revision

Which one is Written in Impersonal style ?

Diet is also changing. We are wealthier than a generation ago, and we now always have enough to eat. We also understand more about which food is healthy, which means we eat more fish and chicken and less red meat than before. You can see more supermarkets now, so food shopping is easier.

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نموذج الكتابة Essay sample

❖ From the Essay sample define :

- Introduction (background)
- Introduction (thesis statement)
- Paragraph (paragraph leader)
- Paragraph (paragraph body)
- Conclusion (summary)
- Conclusion (future suggestion: a prediction, recommendation or solution)

نموذج الكتابة Essay sample

Cancer is still seen by many as an incurable disease that slowly takes over healthy human tissue, and ultimately causes death.

The first thing to do in a typical introduction is to introduce the topic, and provide a little relevant background information to orient the reader. The first statement here identifies the broad topic as "cancer", with a brief description of what it is.

Through advances in medical science, different physical procedures have been developed to treat cancer – for example, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery. In recent years however, there has been a growing perception by cancer specialists and patients that the onset and treatment of cancer may be affected by psychological factors. A new field of research called psycho-oncology has emerged to investigate how the mind can slow down, or even reverse, the progress of cancer. The results from such studies however, have not always been conclusive, and in the case of retrospective studies, have often proved contradictory.

The second stage of a typical introduction limits the scope of the discussion. The next 4 sentences focus on the history of the treatment of cancer, and specifically the role of the mind in controlling the disease

While it is important that medical science properly investigate the merit of mind-cancer theories, the benefits of alternative therapies and viewpoints should not be overlooked in the debate over cancer research.

This next stage points out the importance or relevance of the topic. We don't yet know, however, exactly how the writer is going to tackle the subject.

The essay briefly surveys the origins of mind-cancer research and the emergence of the field of psycho-oncology, before addressing contemporary research in the area, in particular, the problem of validating results. It concludes by examining the merits of alternative therapies with regard to patient psychology.

In the final stage of the introduction, the writer gives a brief outline of the structure of the essay, and what the writer intends to achieve.

Note, however, that this plan avoids using 'I' statements ("In this essay I will ..."); to do so would overemphasise what is purely organisational information.

Instead it does the same thing in a less personal way: "This essay ... surveys It concludes by examining ...".

In general, 'I' is rarely used in scientific writing, where the 'facts of research' are required to speak for themselves.

Before examining the origins of mind-cancer research, the physiology of cancer will be briefly discussed. "Cancer" is a general term used to describe a physiological disorder in which cells in the body begin to reproduce as abnormal cells, forming a mass called a tumour. There are different types of cancers and tumours, and the body utilises the immune system to destroy the cancerous cells. If the tumour is malignant, the immune system stops the cancer cells from moving to other areas of the body. The immune system halts the spread of the cancer cells by the use of cytotoxic T-cells, also known as

Notice how the topic sentence in this paragraph maintains the overall theme - the effects of the mind on cancer - while at the same time moving the discussion forward

Natural killer" (NK) cells. These cells attack the cancerous cells and destroy them. This is why much cancer research over the years has concentrated on the immune system because in effect, this system provides the body's own natural cancer treatment.

If you wish to use an acronym like "NK" = "natural killer" in your essay, introduce it the first time by using the full term and adding the acronym immediately after it in brackets.

Research was then directed to cancer patients. *Many studies concentrated on women suffering from breast cancer, and consisted of interviewing them after a significant event involving their cancer (such as diagnosis, or an operation). The patients were then followed up after a number of years. However, the results often proved contradictory, as has occurred in several retrospective studies. In one well-known case,*

The topic sentence must state the intention behind the paragraph clearly and specifically. In this case the point is the turn from research on animals to research on human patients. Adding a couple more words could clarify this; for example:

At that point, therefore, research was directed to cancer in human patients.

Can the mind really play a role in cancer onset and cure?

Topic sentences in the form of questions are not appropriate in formal scientific writing. They look lazy or journalistic. Make a clear statement to introduce the topic of the paragraph. In this case the second sentence in this paragraph would make a better topic sentence:

While many researchers in the field of psycho-oncology have found positive correlations between cancer and psychological factors, results overall have proved inconclusive.

The extent to which the mind can affect cancer still remains unresolved. Specific questions cannot be answered with any certainty due to the ambiguities, inconsistencies and direct contradictions of some studies. Nevertheless, an examination of the literature that discusses these issues reveals broad findings that are worth emphasising:

- Stress can negatively affect the immune system.*
- Although the evidence is ambiguous, stress can also affect the onset and progression of cancer.*
- An individual's psychological profile can affect the progression of cancer in the body.*

Such findings should not be ignored, but rather used to the patient's advantage.

With the advent of newer medical technology, more research and greater knowledge about how the mind works, the answers to questions in the field of psycho-oncology will hopefully be revealed.

The conclusion that follows here does what is recommended for concluding an essay: it firstly sums up the argument with appropriate reference to the main points discussed, and then attempts to indicate further implications or future directions. However, the final statement is rather glib – that is, it looks good, but doesn't say very much. This weakens the overall impact. It might be better to offer a more cautious, reasoned statement at the end:

With the advent of better medical technology and continuing research, answers to some of the questions in the field of mind-cancer research may become clarified. In the meantime, the professional desire for verifiable results should always be balanced against the patient's well-being.

Notice the use of cautious language here. Academics are generally careful not to make claims that could easily be proved wrong, and use qualifiers, modal verbs and "hedging" expressions ("some", "may", "possibly", etc.) to do this.

Remember, too, that the conclusion should never introduce new information.