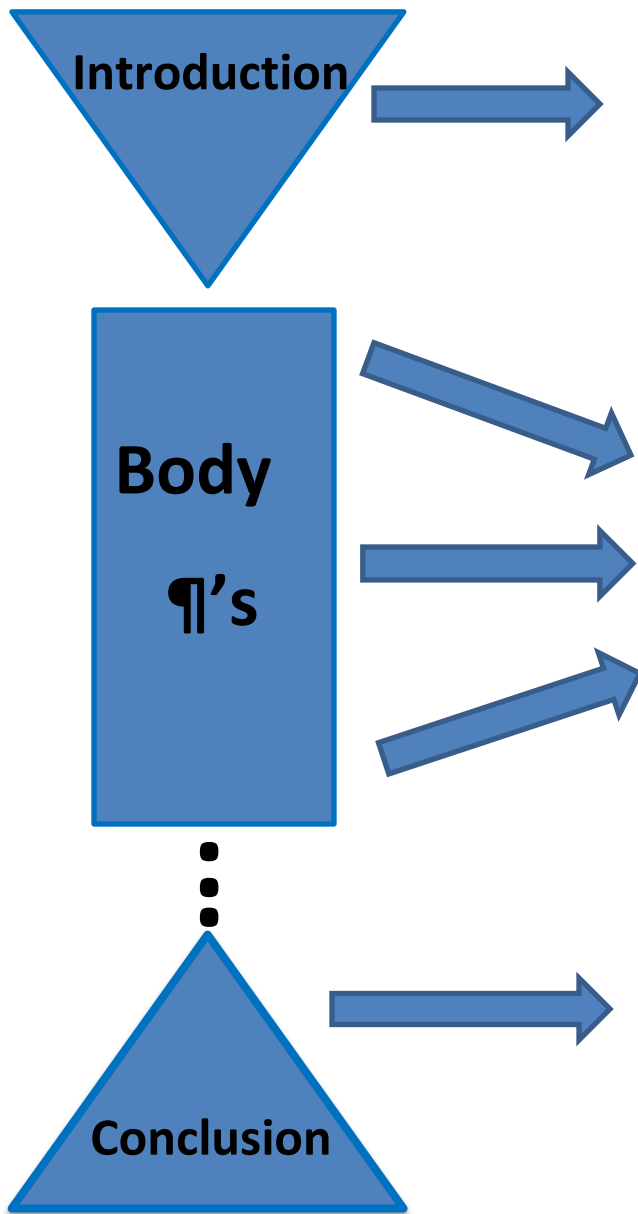


# Scaffolded Structure of an Academic Essay



## Introduction:

The purpose is to introduce:

- (1) What your topic is
- (2) Why it is important
- (3) How you intend prove your claims

Thesis Statement: usually at end of the introduction is a 1-2-(or 3)-sentence, arguable claim about your topic

## Body Paragraphs:

- Each body ¶ should start with a topic sentence and have one main idea
- “Build your case” by presenting **evidence** with effective **citations**
  - Avoid opinion pieces, personal blogs, and Wikipedia entries
- Should **support** your thesis statement
- Connect one paragraph to the next using transitions

## Conclusion:

- Reinforce your thesis statement and the evidence that you used to support it
- Help the reader understand the “bigger picture” or emphasize why your topic matters
- This is your last chance to hit your target, so aim true!
- Don’t introduce new topics/evidence/arguments or use clichés

A simpler way to think about this is:

Introduction →	The preview of what you’re going to tell them!
Body →	Support your main points with evidence!
Conclusion →	Summarize the importance of what you told them!