



# The Learning Centre

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

# Writing in the Humanities

# Today's Workshop

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- Unpacking the topic/question
- Planning your essay – Part 1
- Structure
  - Introduction
  - Body
  - Conclusion
- Planning your essay – Part 2
- Academic language
- Additional resources

# Unpacking the topic/question

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- Task words
  - usually verbs that tell you what to do to complete your assignment
- Content words
  - the "meat" of the question - these are things you can research
- Limiting words
  - keep you focused on a particular area, and stop you from trying to research everything

# Unpacking the topic/question

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Effective communication is considered a core skill in higher education and is usually conveyed through the medium of academic papers and essays. Discuss the process of writing academic essays and critically examine the importance of structure and content.

**Task words** (usually verbs that tell you what to do to complete your assignment)

# Unpacking the topic/question

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## Task words

# Unpacking the topic/question

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**Content words** (the "meat" of the question - these are things you can research)

# Unpacking the topic/question

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## Content words



# Unpacking the topic/question

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# Unpacking the topic/question

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## Limiting words

# Planning your essay – Part 1

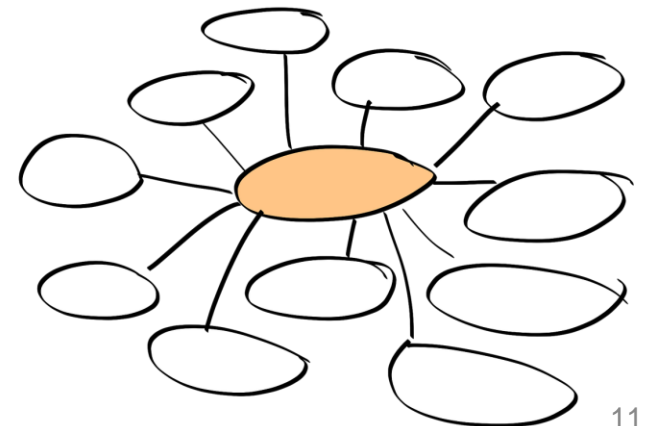
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## Brainstorming

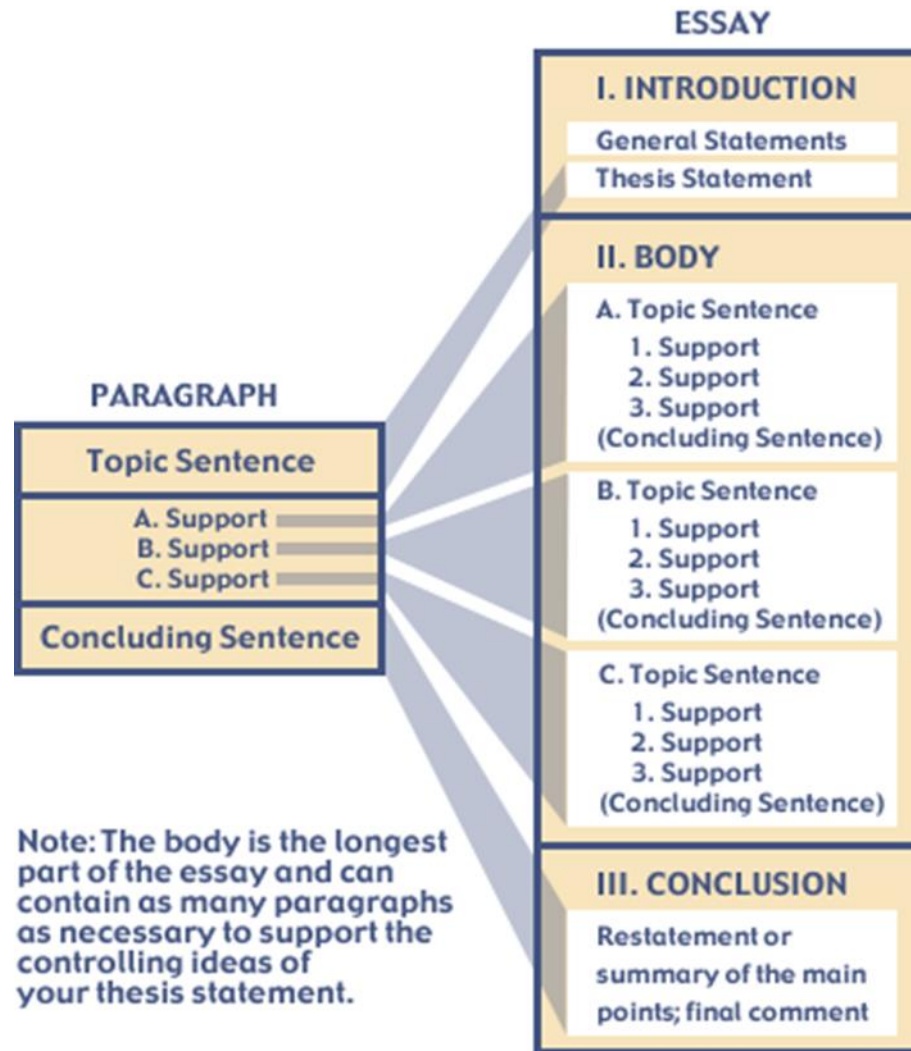
- What do you already know about the topic?
- What do you want to know?
- What ideas do you have already?

## Activity

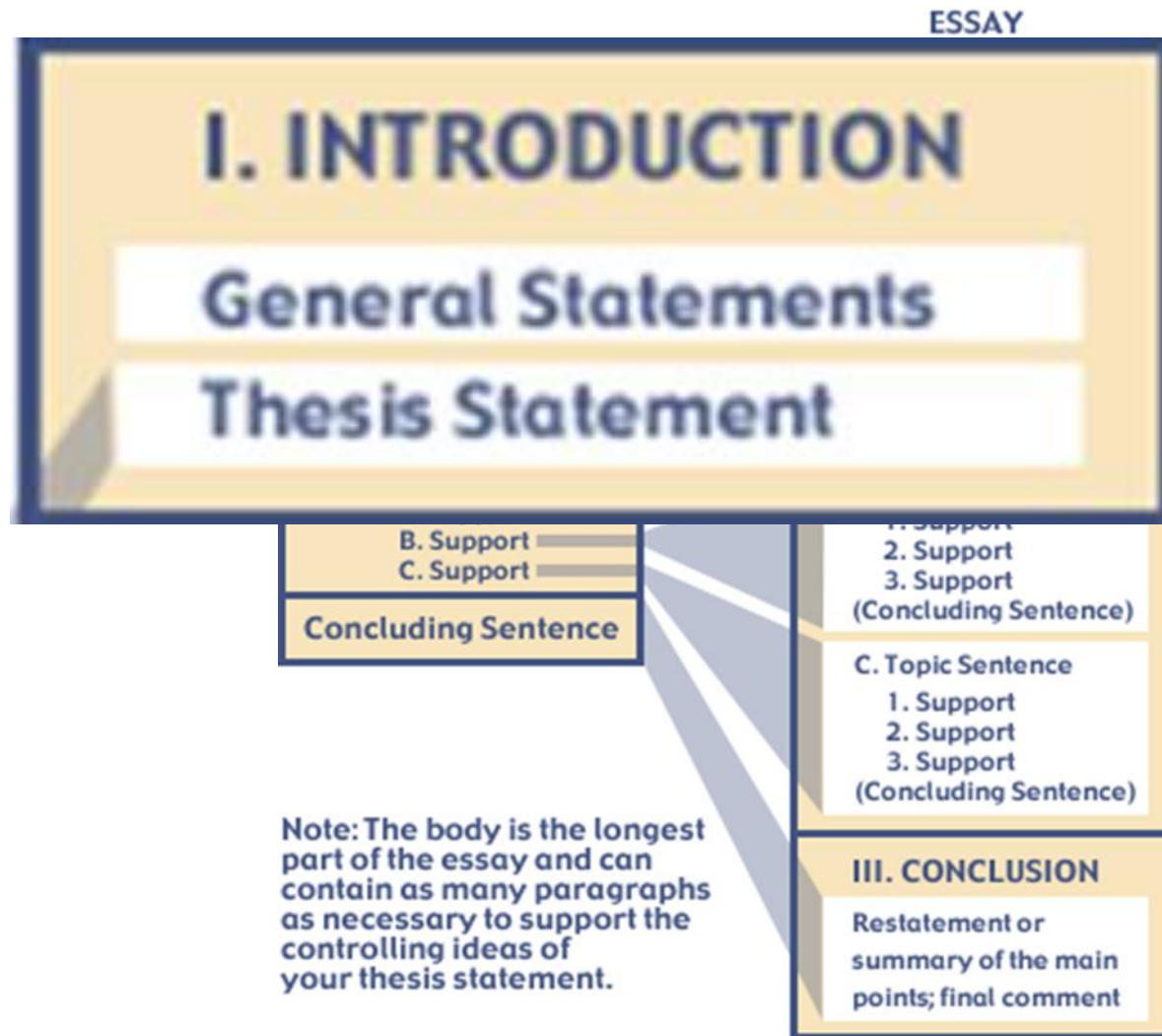
- Choose one of your own essay topics
- Create a mind map



# Structure

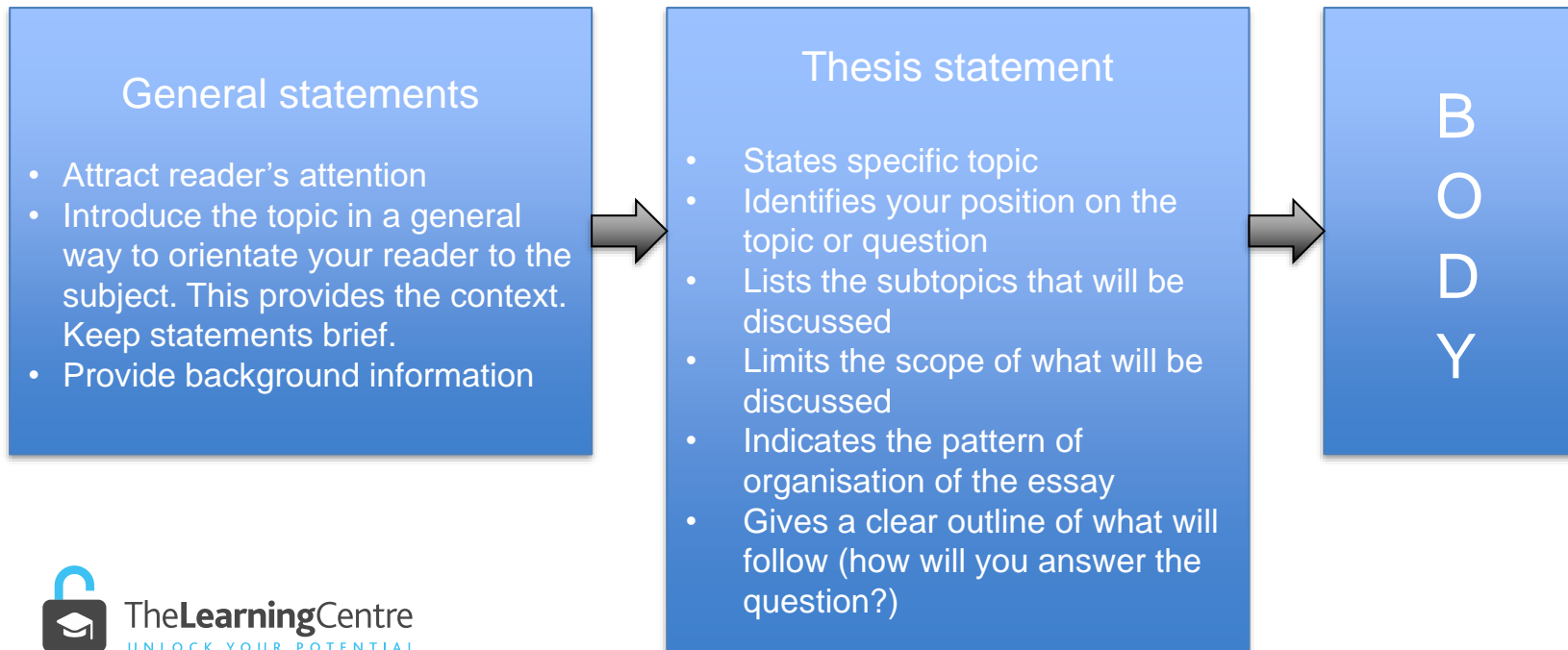


# Structure

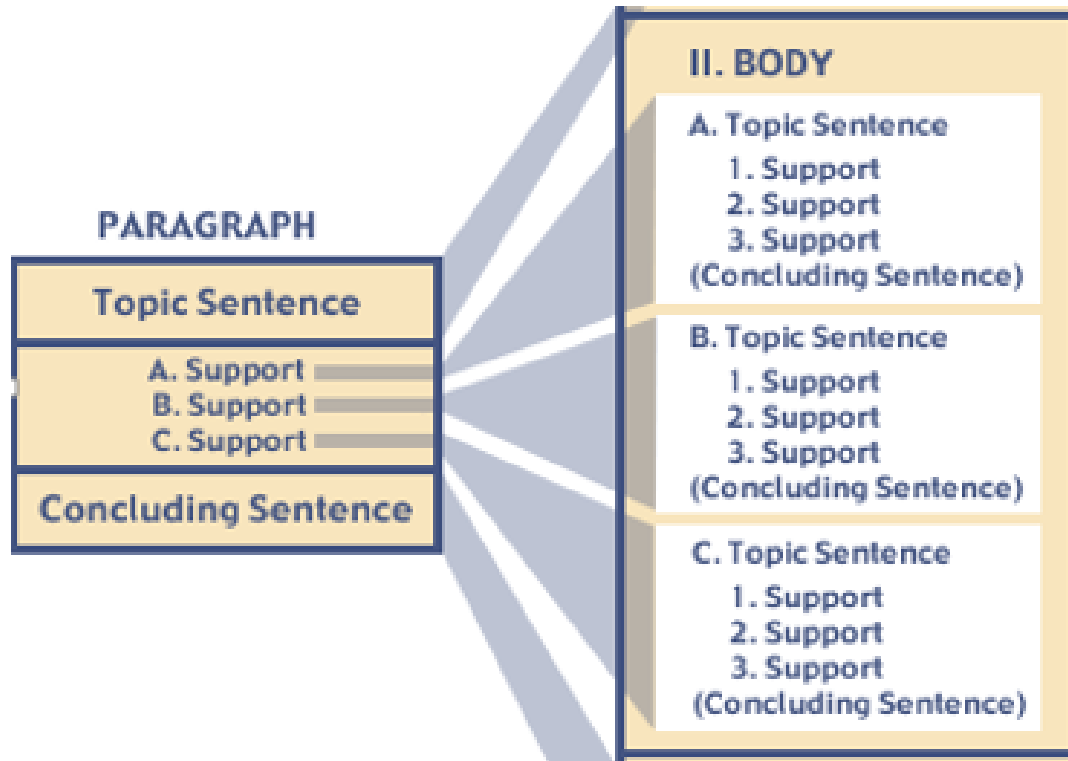


# Structure: Introduction

- Get the reader interested
- Introduce topic
- Provide a context for the essay
- 1 paragraph



# Structure: Body



# Structure: Body

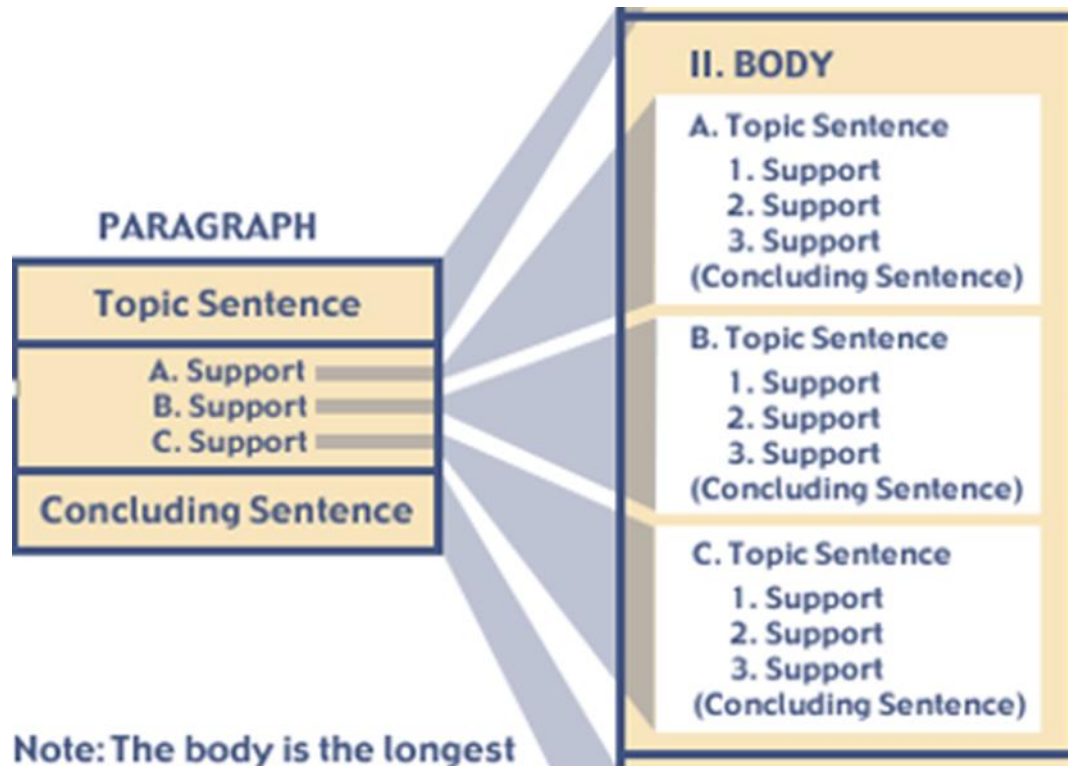
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- Body consists of multiple paragraphs
- Paragraph
  - A paragraph is a group of connected sentences that develop a single point, argument or idea.
  - Paragraphs hold the main ideas of an essay and connect the essay together

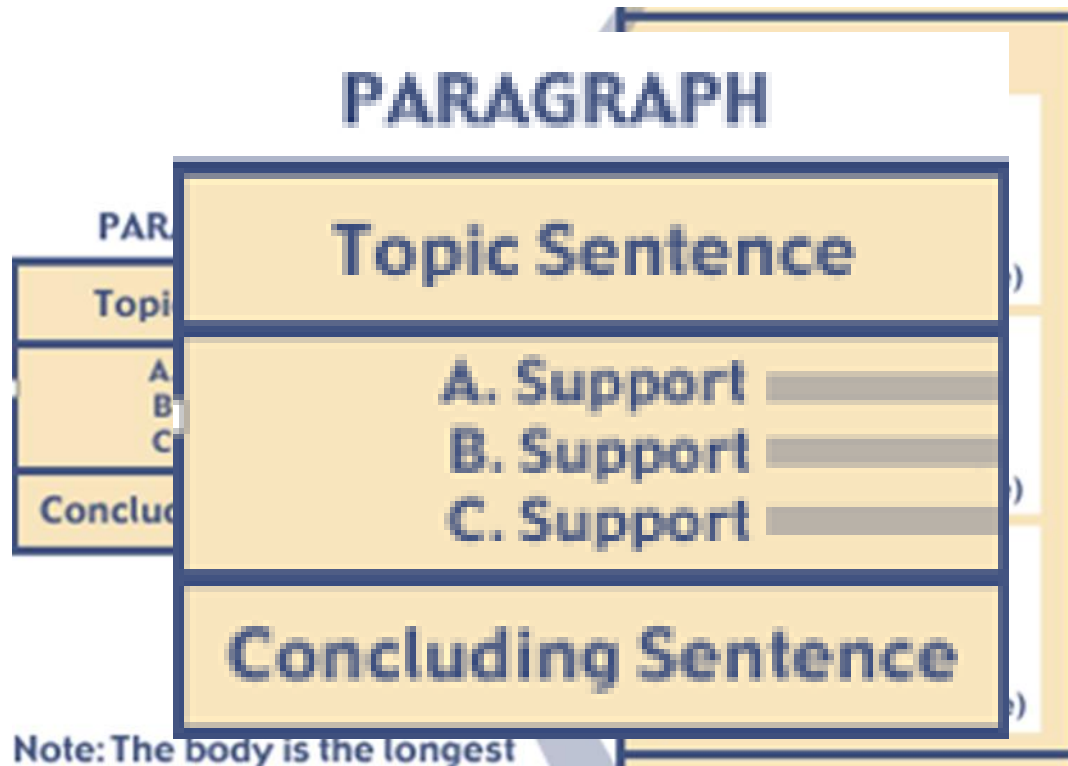
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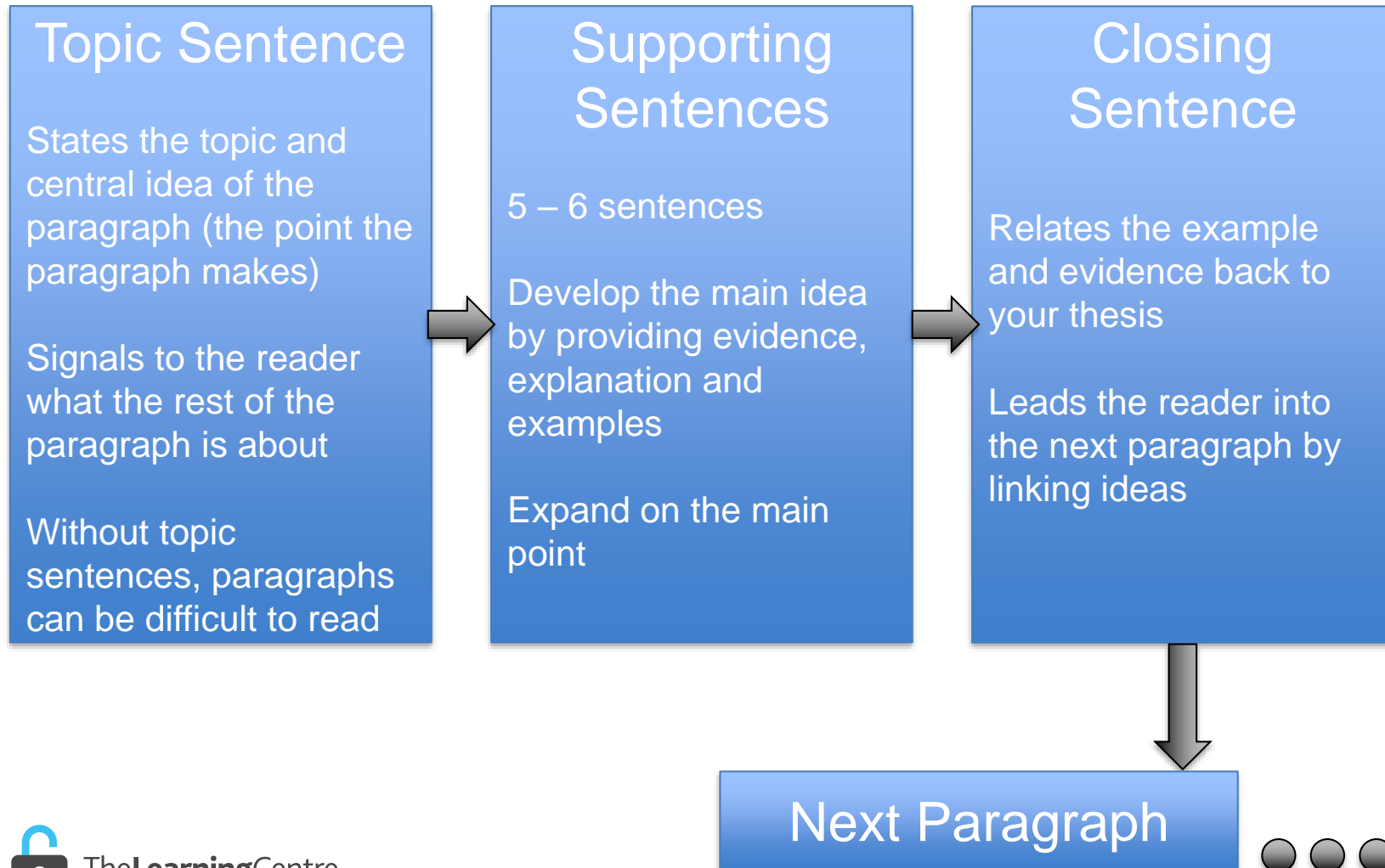
# Structure: Body (Paragraph)



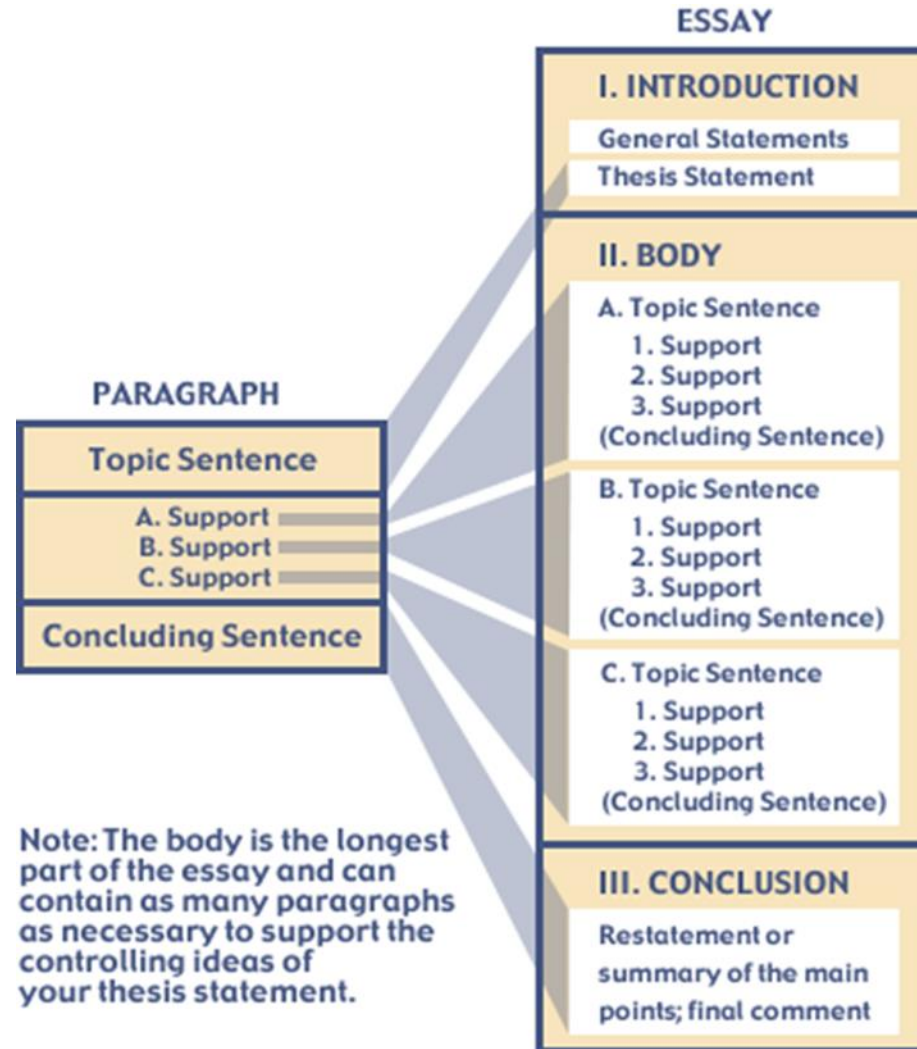
# Structure: Body (Paragraph)



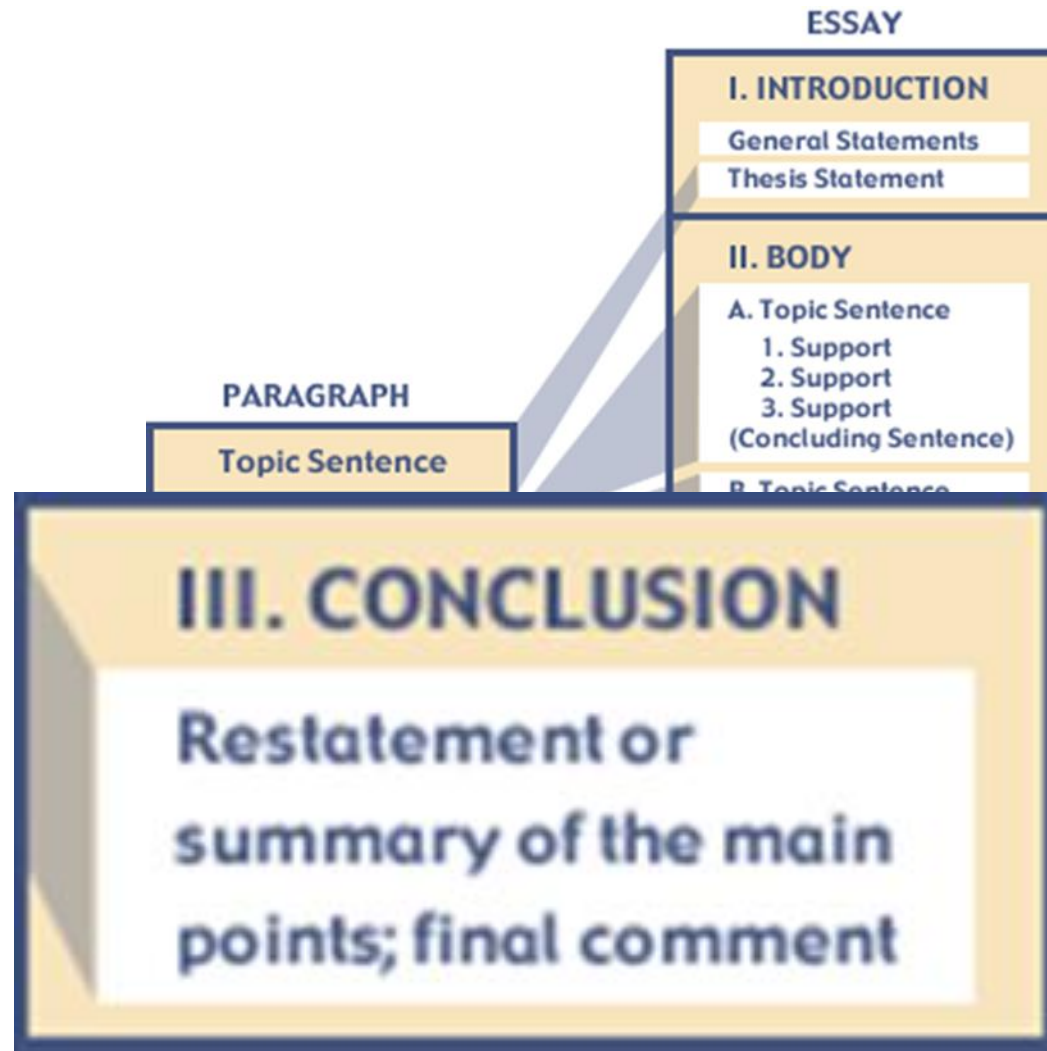
# Structure: Body (Paragraph)



# Structure: Conclusion



# Structure: Conclusion



# Structure: Conclusion

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- Sum up your argument/information with reference to the essay question
- Summarise the key points
- Reinforce the key message
- Perhaps mention wider implications/future directions

# Planning your essay – Part 2

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## Brainstorming

- What do you already know about the topic?
- What do you want to know?
- What ideas do you have already?

## Outlining

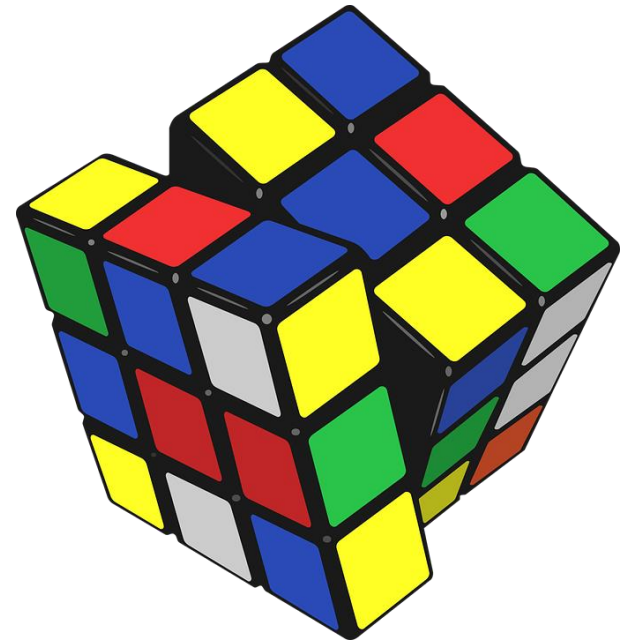
- Write down the main ideas you need to include
- Make a rough plan of how you think your essay will be structured

# Planning your essay – Part 2

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## Activity

- Rearrange the mind map
- Make a rough plan of how you think your essay will be structured







# Academic Language

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- **Formal** (no slang, idioms or colloquialisms)
- **Concise** (choose words wisely, avoid repetition)
- **Objective** (no opinionated statements)
- **Explicit** (say what you mean, don't leave the reader trying to double guess your meaning)
- **Accurate** (use exact figures, dates, names, places etc.)
- **Careful** (check the figures, dates names places etc.)
- **Credible** (use your literature and sources and research to back up what you're saying, as evidence for your ideas)

# Additional Resources

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- [Learning Centre](#)
- [Writing Libguide](#)
- [IRWC](#) (Interactive Rubric for Written Communication)
  
- Peer Advisors