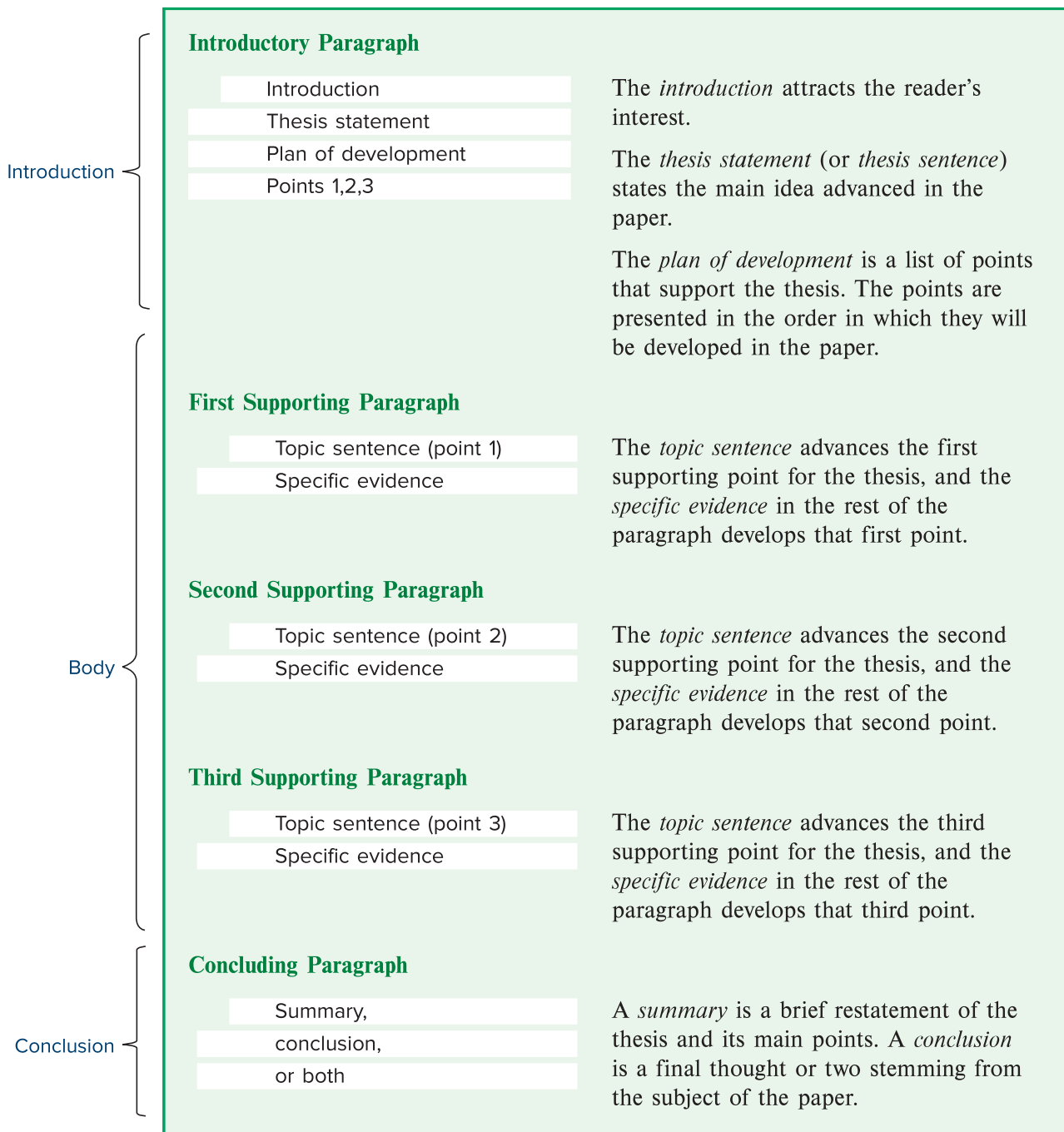


## Diagram of an Essay



## The Only Thing We Have to Fear

Introduction

During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt claimed, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” He wanted to inspire citizens as a way to spur the economy. In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech delivered in December 1950, William Faulkner, the great American novelist, said, “The basest of all things is to be afraid.” Uttered many decades ago, both these ideas still have relevance. Some young people make important life decisions based on deep-seated anxieties. They fear that they won’t be accepted by others, that they won’t find a mate, or that they just aren’t living life to the fullest.

Thesis with plan of development

Body

Many people are frightened they won’t fit in. To try and fit in, they spend money on things like expensive boats, cars, and clothes they feel will secure friendships. Deep in the pits of their stomachs is the gnawing fear that, without such material objects, their friends will abandon them. Then they will have to sit home alone on the weekends. They have forgotten that, to those of character, possessions and image are far less important than integrity, honesty, and compassion.

Topic sentence that connects to thesis with first point

Some individuals—both men and women—fear they will never be able to attract and keep a lifelong partner. Therefore, they make enormous efforts to re-create themselves. For example, they follow ludicrous diets and exercise for hours each day. Some even drink expensive commercial concoctions to curb their appetites and lose weight. Others, looking ahead to their more mature years, plan to get collagen injections, face lifts, and even breast implants.

Topic sentence that connects to thesis with second point

However, the fear that causes the greatest damage to the human spirit is the one that makes people question the value and fullness of their own lives. Too many—young and old alike—are afraid that they might miss out on “the good life,” which people equate as owning the best of everything. So, they take a second and even a third job to afford the things they believe will make their lives good. This is the worst perversion of all because it turns human beings into slaves. They are owned by the possessions. The irony is, of course, that, in seeking the good life, people have lost the good life. Instead of having the luxury to relax at home, talk to family, enjoy dinner, go for long walks, or watch the sun set, too many men and women are rushing off to an evening of more work to pay off the bills.

Topic sentence that connects to thesis with third point

Conclusion

Cowering to silly fears, spending too much, or changing to fit in with the ridiculous images created by a plastic society is harmful. It is blurring Americans’ moral vision. People need to realize once more that the true source of happiness, the measure of a life fulfilled, is the ability to see eternal beauty in the night sky, to become inspired by gently falling snow, and to make those ever important human connections.

Restatement of thesis/summary

## TIP

Remember that once you have completed your draft, you should use the essay checklist to check that your essay has unity, support, organization, and good sentence skills and revise your essay until you can answer “yes” to each of the questions.

### ESSAY CHECKLIST: THE FOUR BASES

#### UNITY

- Do I have a clearly stated thesis that is narrow and focused and is located at the beginning of my introduction?
  - Do all the supporting paragraphs have topic sentences that help advance the thesis?
  - Are there portions of the essay that do not support my thesis and therefore should be eliminated or rewritten?
- 

#### SUPPORT

- Do I have at least three separate supporting points for my thesis?
  - Have I backed up each main point with *specific* and detailed evidence?
  - Have I provided enough evidence to support my points?
  - Do I have any repetitive areas that need to be revised?
- 

#### COHERENCE

- Have I organized my essay by using a clear method?
  - Do I use strong transitions and other connecting words?
  - Do I have an introduction that is effective and engages the reader?
  - Do I have a concluding paragraph that effectively supports and completes my essay?
- 

#### SENTENCE SKILLS

- Have I used a consistent point of view throughout my essay?
- Have I used specific rather than general words?
- Have I avoided wordiness and been concise?
- Are my sentences varied?
- Have I edited for spelling and other sentence skills errors \_\_\_\_\_