

Academic Essay Writing Guide

By Arnold Strachan

Arnold's English

A simple framework for writing clear IELTS essays.



This guide explains how to structure a strong IELTS Task 2 essay, including how to write clear thesis statements, organize effective body paragraphs, and support your ideas with explanations and examples.

It is designed for students preparing for the **IELTS Academic Writing Task 2 exam**.

IELTS Task 2 Essay Structure

Most high-scoring IELTS essays follow a **4-paragraph structure**:

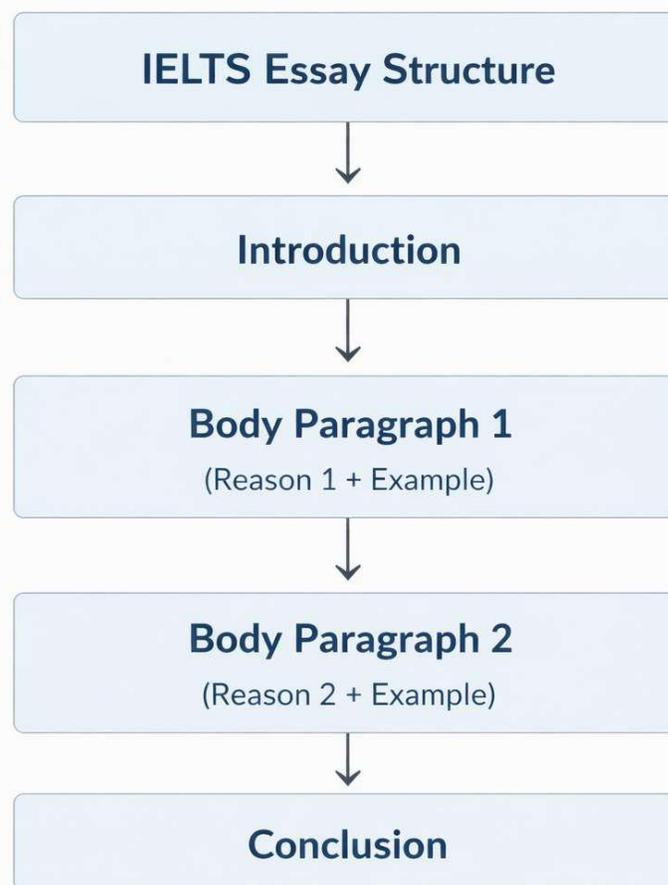
Introduction

Body Paragraph 1

Body Paragraph 2

Conclusion

You may add a third body paragraph if needed, but **two strong body paragraphs are usually enough**.



Example IELTS Question

Some people believe students learn better when studying alone. Others believe group study is more effective.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Introduction

A strong introduction has **two parts**.

1. Topic Statement

Introduce the topic in your own words.

Example:

Some people believe that studying alone helps students concentrate better, while others argue that group study improves learning.

2. Thesis Statement

State your opinion clearly.

Example:

In my opinion, studying in groups is more effective because students can share ideas and help each other understand difficult topics.

What is a Thesis Statement?

A **thesis statement** is the main argument of your essay.

It tells the reader:

- your opinion
- the main reasons you will explain

Example thesis:

Group study is more effective because students can exchange ideas and stay motivated.

I will explain these reasons in the following paragraphs.

Body Paragraphs

Each body paragraph explains **one main reason from your thesis**.

A useful structure is **TEAL**.

TEAL Paragraph Structure

T – Topic Sentence

Introduce the main idea of the paragraph.

E – Evidence / Example

Give a real example or situation.

A – Analysis

Explain how the example supports your idea.

L – Link

Connect the idea back to your main argument.

Example Body Paragraph (TEAL)

Topic Sentence

One reason group study is effective is that students can explain ideas to each other.

Example

For example, when students prepare for an exam together, one student may understand a concept better and explain it to others.

Analysis

This helps everyone understand the material more clearly because students often explain ideas in simpler ways than textbooks.

Link

Therefore, studying in groups can improve understanding and help students learn more efficiently.

Conclusion

A conclusion should summarize your argument.

Use this simple structure:

Restate your opinion

Rewrite your thesis using different words.

Summarize your main ideas

Briefly mention the reasons explained in your body paragraphs.

Optional final thought

End with a short statement about the importance of the issue.

Example:

In conclusion, studying in groups can be more effective than studying alone. Working with others allows students to share ideas and helps them understand difficult concepts more easily. For these reasons, collaborative learning can significantly improve academic success.

Do not introduce new ideas in the conclusion. Only summarize the ideas already discussed in your essay.

Restated thesis

studying in groups can be more effective than studying alone

Summary of main points

share ideas and understand difficult concepts

Final statement

improve academic success

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