

Economics Essay Structure (Recommended)

Some of you are confused about how to do the assigned economics essay because you have never done one before. Well, economics essays are no different from other social science essays except that you are dealing with an economics prompt and using economic data and theory to support your thesis. I don't like giving formats, because formats mess up your writing, but below I have the elements that should be included in your essay to make it a quality product. You can consider each box a paragraph, but you don't have to. Sometimes, with longer papers, each box may be multiple paragraphs depending on the complexity of the issue. You also may be able to combine elements. For instance, a paragraph supporting your thesis may include an address for the weaknesses of the main idea, or the antithesis.

Introduction:

Your introduction opens your argument. It explains what you are writing about and how you will write about it. It may offer a reason why you are writing the essay and/or a hook to get a reader's attention (the hook is optional in academic writing). Most importantly, the introduction offers a thesis statement or statements. A thesis is your answer to an economic question. Your Introduction should include at least the following...

1. Introduce your topic
2. Define your terms, theories and measures you will use
3. **Thesis:** Answer to an economics question or prompt

Primary Main Idea:

This should be your strongest argument.

Argument should be supported with valid and reliable economic data and measures and/or sound economic theory. Use the Rule of Three below.

You should defend the data, measures, and/or theories used and address any weaknesses they may have

Supportive Main Idea:

These are main ideas that may not be as strong as your primary, but they still support your thesis

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Body

The body of your essay is dedicated to proving that your thesis is valid. You should have at least three main ideas that support your thesis. If you can't come up with three main ideas, you probably don't have much of a thesis.

Antithesis

The antithesis is any counter-argument to your thesis. It does not have to be the exact opposite of your thesis, just another way to look at your claim that challenges the validity of your thesis. If you are being academically honest, you must acknowledge the counterargument. An antithesis should include the following:

1. An honest exposition of the counterargument
2. Explanation for why your thesis is stronger than the antithesis

Conclusion

The conclusion wraps up your essay. It is NOT a restatement of your introduction. Yes, you can summarize your argument, but don't spend too much time on this. You've already made your argument. The conclusion should explain why your thesis is important.

1. Explain why your thesis is important and why the reader should care what you have to say.
2. Link your thesis to a larger theme.
 - Current event or historically recurring issue
 - Larger moral issue

Advice from Mr. A

Follow the Rule of Three:

In other words, every claim that you make should be supported with at least three valid and/or reliable factual supports. Your thesis should be supported with at least three strong main ideas. Each main idea should be supported with three facts. If you can't find at least three supports, you probably have a weak thesis.

Valid = Derived using methods for determining truth

Reliable = Multiple observers draw the same conclusions



I have some PET PEEVES:

You don't have to label your essay. What I mean is, you don't have to labor your first paragraph, "Introduction" or your last paragraph "Conclusion". I can figure that out on my own.

Never use the phrase "some may say" or related statements. That's weak writing. If you are inclined to use this phrase, be specific about who is saying it.

Take a position. Don't straddle the fence. Avoid the formulaic "This issue has both negative and positive characteristics..." No kidding. Take a position. Is it positive or negative?

Avoid writing "I believe..." If you are writing it, I'll assume you believe it.



Strive for clarity. Use the words you need, not the words you want to use. The more complicated the word, the more nuanced it is, the greater likelihood that you are using it wrong.

Also, don't use fifteen words when three will do. "The spherical projectile was launched with radial torque in a parabolic trajectory over the linear construction circumscribing the juxtaposing property." This is better written, "the ball was thrown over the fence into the neighbor's yard."



If you are looking for some useful advice on writing you can go to my class website and check out the "Writing Advice" page.

<https://mrandosciasclassroom.net/writing-advice/>