Summary of Essay Organization:

The scaffold below will help you to develop a strong essay.

The following are some general rules to guide you in the development of your essay.

1. Avoid using “I” and never use “you”
2. In formal essays avoid using contractions, eg, “don’t, can’t, etc.
3. Use strong verbs, adjectives and adverbs
4. Vary sentence beginnings, avoid too many “The”, “He”, etc
5. Work on strong sentence variety: use compound and complex sentences, as well as short sentences for emphasis

| **Introduction:**  **A strong introduction is essential as it allows the reader to understand your position or perspective on the content you will be communicating.** |
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| **Hook - interesting opening sentence** |
| **Central idea:**  OR  **Thesis or research question:**  (where applicable) |
| **Context:** Background |
| **Supporting ideas:** Each of the ideas you will use to support your central idea, or thesis/research question.  Each idea will be a topic of a body paragraph. |
| **Transition:** Transition sentence to next paragraph |

| **Body:**  **Each body paragraph should have one topic and one topic only. If you find you are discussing more than one topic per paragraph then you need a new paragraph** |
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| **Topic Sentence: What you will discuss in this paragraph?** |
| **Evidence: Quote, example, fact, statistics, reasons.** |
| **Analysis: Why is this evidence important?** |
| **Transition: Transition sentence to next paragraph** |

| **Conclusion:**  **The conclusion should summarize or synthesize main arguments from the essay and have a concluding comment. The conclusion should *never* include new information.** |
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| **Restate the main ideas from each paragraph** (one sentence per paragraph) |
| **An overall concluding statement** |

**Thesis:** Main idea + opinion

**Research Question**: addresses **a specific** problem or issue + investigation question

**Central idea:** Main idea

**Context:** Background