center for writing university of minnesota http://writing.umn.edu 612.625.1893 student writing support

quicktips

ACADEMIC ESSAY STRUCTURES & FORMATS

Standard American argumentative essays begin with an **introduction** that gives a main point (**thesis**). The thesis is supported by a series of **body paragraphs** with sub-points, and the essay ends with a **conclusion**. Below is a visual representation of this structure, adapted from the Seattle University Writing Center; on the back is an example of the typical format for an academic paper.

		paper idea diagram		
	topic:			
	introduction:			
subtopics - sup	porting arguments:			
details:			an Address and Address	
0	0	0		
	conclusion:			

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