

This is a brief overview of how you construct an argument.

Decide on your argument

An argument involves providing proof to support your position, which is based on fact and supported by academic references. In academia, there is no reference to personal feelings, and emotive language is avoided.

To do this, you should write a list of points on both sides of an argument, then choose which position you will take. Brainstorm a range of supporting ideas for your topic.

Initially this can be very wide ranging. This listing can be in various formats such as concept maps (Mind Maps), linear planning, under headers and so forth. After you have collated a range of ideas, select the three strongest points in one line of reasoning for a five paragraph essay; these will form the basis for your three body paragraphs and are your topic sentences. More points (topic sentences) might be needed if the assessment length is longer, e.g., 3000 words.

Gather Evidence

Then, you will need to find sources that will provide strong support for each of these, ideally from primary sources. These latter two steps may be reversed as your initial ideas may be augmented by credible sources, where you then choose your strongest points. However, these sources should have academic credibility, e.g., peer reviewed journals and currency (published in the last 5 to 10 years).

Paragraph Structure

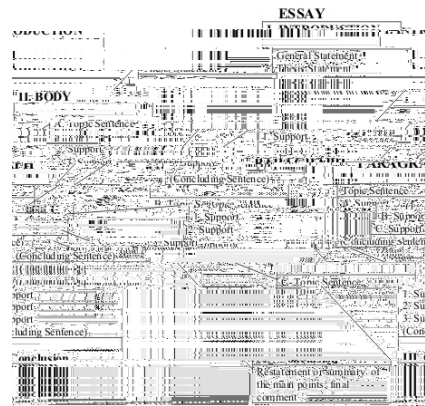
To write a paragraph, follow the basic structure as below.

Topic Sentence: The main idea or purpose of the paragraph. Each paragraph has only one.

Supporting Sentence/s: A more specific support to the Topic Sentence. Elaborates on the meaning.

Example Sentence/s: Evidence or data (maybe included in the Supporting Sentence).

Concluding/linking sentence: A summary of your argument.



For Example:

Topic Sentence:

Food intake has a significant effect on the mental health of individuals and can create behavioural changes.

Supporting Sentence:

Individuals eating a high carbohydrate diet are more likely to experience mood



swings, often quickly varying between extreme bursts of energy and extreme lows. Sometimes, these have been shown to create socially inappropriate behaviours.

Example Sentences According to statistics released by the China Health Board, 99% of convicted criminals had consumed carbohydrates often in the form of rice, in the 24 hours prior to committing a crime (Hong & Wang, 2015). This is in accordance with Tcherni-Buzzeo (2017), who contends that the link between aggression and nutrition is proven by biosocial criminology.

Concluding/linking Sentence:

The evidence makes clear that mental health issues, including criminal behaviour, is highly correlated with the consumption of carbohydrates in food.

