

Organizing Your Expository Essay

Your topic will help you determine which type of essay to write: observational/informative, comparison/contrast or process/how to. All essays, however, should follow the same basic format.

BEGINNING

The beginning introduces the topic and states the writer's thesis.

Thesis Statement

Green building is construction that maximizes energy efficiency and minimizes environmental impact.

MIDDLE

The middle paragraphs support the writer's thesis.

Topic Sentences

Problems with energy are changing people's ideas about building construction.

Green buildings are designed to use energy efficiently.

Green building practices not only save energy but can also generate it.

Builders of green structures also pay attention to where they build and what materials they use.

ENDING

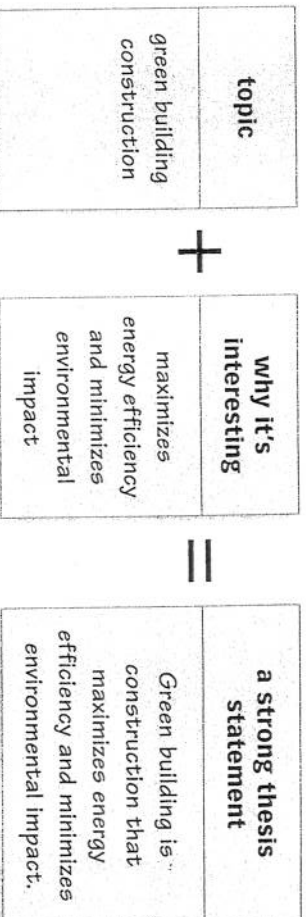
The ending restates the thesis, sums up the main ideas, and gives the reader something to think about.

Closing Sentence

This powerful combination of monetary savings and environmental benefits is the reason builders and buyers everywhere are going green.

Prewriting ■ Write a thesis statement.

After completing her research, Karla was ready to write her thesis statement. She used the following formula:



Write your thesis statement. Use the model above to create a thesis statement for your essay. Try different versions until you are satisfied.

■ Write topic sentences.

Every thesis needs the support of three or more main points. Karla reviewed her research, listed main points, and wrote a topic sentence for each.

Main Points List

1. Energy problems make green building important. Topic sentence 1: Problems with energy are changing people's ideas about building construction.
2. Green buildings use energy efficiently. Topic sentence 2: Green buildings are designed to use energy efficiently.
3. Some green buildings generate energy. Topic sentence 3: Green building practices not only save energy but can also generate it.
4. Location and materials also are important. Topic sentence 4: Builders of green structures also pay attention to where they build and what materials they use.



Write topic sentences. List main points that will support your thesis statement. Then, for each main point, write a topic sentence.