

Organizing Your Essay When the Topic Concerns a Trend

College essays have longer paragraphs than those found in most newspaper or magazine articles. Although there is no set number of paragraphs, a 600-word essay will probably have from 3-7 paragraphs including an opening paragraph, closing paragraph, and two to four body paragraphs. Generally speaking, the majority of the supporting evidence and arguments for your thesis are organized into these body paragraphs.

The content of trend essay body paragraphs depends partly on the kind of dispute prompted by your thesis. If the trend is one that you know a lot about and the reader mostly needs information, then you can use some of the questions on the previous page as an organizing scheme. But college essays tend to be more than just informational. The formats below are possible approaches you might use.

- Thesis focus: This trend will have major effects. (Question: Like what?)
Body Paragraph: First Effect
Body Paragraph: Second Effect
Etc.
- Thesis focus: Several factors have led to this trend. (Question: Like what?)
Body Paragraph: First Factor
Body Paragraph: Second Factor
Etc.
- Thesis focus: This trend will have a detrimental impact. (Question: Why? Or like what?)
Body Paragraph: First detrimental impact
Body Paragraph: Second detrimental impact
Etc.
- Thesis focus: This trend will benefit us. (Question: Why? Or like what?)
Body Paragraph: First benefit
Body Paragraph: Second benefit.
- Thesis focus: We are heading toward.... (Question: What's the evidence?)
Body Paragraph: Evidence from X
Body Paragraph: Evidence from Y
Etc.
- Thesis focus: This trend will continue. (Question: Why? Or what's the evidence?)
Body Paragraph: First reason
Body Paragraph: Second reason
- Thesis focus: This trend will not last. (Question: Why? Or What's the evidence?)
Body Paragraph: First reason (limiting factor)
Body Paragraph: Second reason
Etc.
- Thesis focus: This trend will continue but have little effect (Question: Why? Or what's the evidence?)
Body Paragraph: First reason (limiting factor)
Body Paragraph: Second reason
Etc.
- Thesis focus: People are wrong about this trend. (Question:
Body Paragraph: What they think?
Body Paragraph: What I think?
OR Body Paragraph: What they think and why it's wrong
Body Paragraph: What they also think and why it's wrong
Etc.