



Structuring the Assignment

STRUCTURING THE ASSIGNMENT : (Introduction - Body - Conclusion)

In your first draft you should not waste too much time writing the introduction. What is important is to start and to continue writing. If necessary, write the introduction quickly and then move onto the body of the discussion. You can then come back later to improve and polish it.

What should be included in an introduction and conclusion?

Introduction

Introduce, identify, define the topic.

Limit the scope of the discussion.

Outline the points to be covered and the order in which they will be covered.

Example: Evaluate the following statement with reference to relevant sources. "Foreign investment in Australia is essential for Australia's development". (EPN101 : Government and Business Relations).

Foreign investment has played and continues to play a vital role in Australia's development. According to Smith (1992: 108-132), the main areas of investment are..... This investment provides x jobs and contributes \$x annually to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

However, a number of authors (Jones 1987, Freeny 1993, Thompson 1994) argue that certain forms of foreign investment can actually be

detrimental to Australia's future growth and prosperity. (e.g., land speculation). They argue that significant changes in government policy are required to ensure that the type of foreign investment that is attracted to Australia will be in the country's long term interests.

This essay will examine the contribution of foreign investment to Australia's development. Firstly, it will provide an overview of the main forms of foreign investment. Secondly, it will examine the important benefits and potential benefits of foreign investment to Australia. This will be followed by an analysis of the major criticisms. Finally, the need for a review of government policy will be discussed.

Conclusion

Summarise the main ideas of your discussion.

Evaluate the material.

State your conclusions (this may include predictions/recommendations).

Example:

This paper has attempted to examine and assess the contribution of foreign investment to Australia's development. While it is clear from the evidence that foreign investment is essential to Australia's economic growth, a number of concerns have been highlighted in regard to some of the key investment areas, particularly land speculation and tourism. It has been argued that these forms of investment may contribute very little in terms of real job growth and infrastructure development. Australia needs investment in value-adding and high-tech industries. The government has a clear role to play here. It must create a suitable environment, through tax incentives and fewer regulations, to attract more investment of this kind to Australia.

Some Cultural Considerations

In some cultures students are expected to begin their essays from a very general perspective, providing an enormous amount of historical and factual

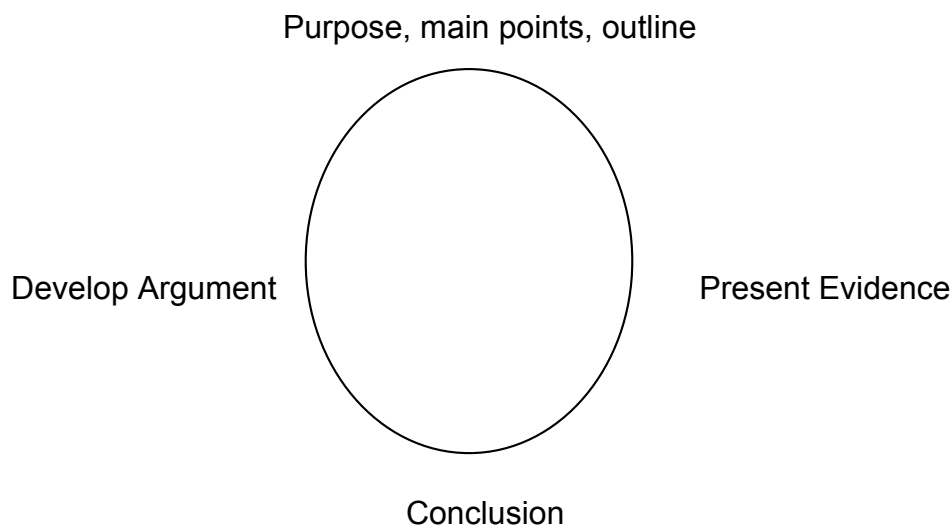
background to the topic, and then to gradually develop and refine their discussion towards a definite conclusion. In diagrammatical form the structure looks something like this:

GENERAL APPROACH TO TOPIC



CONCLUSION

However, the academic tradition at Australian universities tends to favour a structure where the purpose, issues and main points are outlined clearly at the beginning of the assignment. The argument is then developed and the relevant evidence is presented and discussed. Finally, the main points are restated and summarised, the arguments evaluated and a conclusion(s) drawn. The structure looks something like this:



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