Essay Structure

**Introduction**

* Introduce the context or background to the topic. Explain the essay title. Are there any authors/artists/theorists who offer ideas on the topic? Introduce these ideas.
* Define any complex terminology/key words.
* Introduce the key ideas that stem from the topic, in the order that they will be discussed in your essay.
* Is there a line of argument that your essay will follow?

**Paragraph 1 – Point 1**

* **An introductory sentence (this is sometimes called a topic sentence):** This tells the reader the purpose of your paragraph and introduces the main idea you are developing/ expanding upon.
* **Examples/evidence/quotations:** Include evidence that develops/contrasts an idea. This informs and strengthens your argument. Remember to reference the source.
* **Evaluative sentence/s:** Explain the relevance of your examples/evidence/quotations. What does this show?

 Why is this evidence useful? Does this evidence have any limitations?

* **Concluding sentence/s:** This draws together the main idea being made in your paragraph and should link back to the question.



Is there a link between the point made in this paragraph and the one that follows in the next paragraph? State this link in your concluding sentences in the above paragraph, or in opening sentences of the next paragraph.

**Paragraph 2- Point 2**

* Introductory sentence
* Examples/evidence/quotations
* Evaluative sentence/s
* Concluding sentence/s

Repeat the main body paragraph structure as many times as necessary.

**Conclusion**

* Summarise each of your points in the order in which you have presented them.
* State your main conclusions based on the evidence you have presented.
* Link your conclusions back to the title – make sure you have directly answered the question and that you have clearly presented your viewpoint on the topic.