

# How do you know what to Believe?

## Tips for Structuring Your Essay



**Introduction:** The heading for this section should be a catchy statement or hook, for example: "Are Ghosts Real?" This section should introduce the topic, give some background information, and state the question that you investigated.

✓	<b>Introduction (Paragraph I)</b>
	My 5-paragraph essay opened with a catching hook.
	My introduction contained a well thought out, intriguing thesis statement that is connected to the theme of "How do you Know What to Believe" and demonstrates the position that my paper takes on this issue.
	I have carefully selected the 3 main aspects that address or attempt to answer the question I identified as my and briefly introduced them.
	My introductory paragraph neatly leads into the second paragraph.

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**BODY PARAGRAPHS** Make sure your essay well-organized with the 3 body paragraphs. Each body paragraph should have: **one overarching assertion**, and **two pieces of evidence** per paragraph and followed up with **two points of commentary** on the evidence.

**Evidence For:** This section should describe in detail the evidence that suggests that the answer to your question is "yes". Include the sources of this information and reference sources according to the given format and situation.



✓	<b>Body of the Paper (Paragraph II)</b>
	This paragraph explores the three supporting facts/ideas that are FOR this belief and are connected back to the thesis.
	It contains examples, quotes, and supportive evidence.
	If necessary I have accurately quoted any sources I used both in the text and also in a reference listing.
	This body paragraph neatly leads into the next paragraph.



**Evidence Against:** This section should describe in detail the evidence that suggests that the answer to your question is "no". Include sources.

✓	<b>Body of the Paper (Paragraph III)</b>
	This paragraph explores the three supporting facts/ideas that are AGAINST the belief and are connected back to the thesis.
	It contains examples, quotes, and supportive evidence.
	If necessary I have accurately quoted any sources I used both in the text and also in a reference listing.
	This body paragraph neatly leads into the next paragraph.



**IV. My Opinion:** In this section, state your opinion, and give a detailed description of why you feel that way. Discuss the evidence you cited in the previous two sections.

✓	<b>Body of the Paper (Paragraph IV)</b>
	This paragraph explores the three supporting facts/ideas that are FOR my belief/OPINION and are connected back to the thesis. Just state it as if it were true. No need to say things like, “In my opinion...”
	It contains examples, quotes, and supportive evidence.
	If necessary I have accurately quoted any sources I used both in the text and also in a reference listing.
	This final body paragraph neatly leads into the concluding paragraph.



**V. CONCLUSION: How Do You Know What to Believe?**

In this section, describe in general how we decide what to believe. What is the role of preconceived ideas? How important is the source of information in determining its credibility? Is seeing believing? How do you personally make decisions about what to believe? Can you ever be certain?

✓	<b>Conclusion (Paragraph V)</b>
	The conclusion creatively revisits the <b>thesis statement</b> and the three supporting pieces of evidence that were explored in the body.
	The conclusion creatively ties the paper back to the introduction and especially to the hook—making the paper a nice, neatly constructed package.
	This should be not just a summary of what you've said but a <b>final articulation</b> of what <b>you hope your reader has learned</b> from reading your essay. A good essay often "opens out" at the end, demonstrating what the writer has learned. You may want to consider ending your essay with a question, an enigma, a puzzle or something which provokes its reader to look at the text in a new way and to walk away with new thoughts.

Please READ YOUR PAPER OUT LOUD and remove **all unneeded statements** like:

- I, we, us, they, etc.
- In this essay...
- This essay will prove...
- So wrapping this essay up...
- Any slang or informal speech...(like ‘cuz, yours, etc.)
- Addressing the reader by saying “You”...
- Spelling mistakes any typos!

