

Academic Writing: Essay Outline - English for Academic Purposes with Josh #12

we're starting right now you guys asked me in the chat when are we gonna start well we're gonna start right now hello everybody and welcome to English for academic purposes I'm your teacher Joshua I'm here in lovely Spokane Washington United States of America we are at a little private College where we teach English to students in person every day and we have a studio here where I get to teach all of you all over the world so welcome I got the live chat up here I see a lot of friendly faces August is back hello and Selma of course and Rosa and looks like we have maybe some new students hi deke hi deke how are you doing is this your first class or have you seen our class before all right August is back hello again and let's see I'm going to scroll up here and we have our arabic student again arabic speaker your name is in arabic so I can't read it and I want to say I forget your name I want to say starts with an S but go ahead and type your name there I'll say hello is it Khalid Khalid is that right hi-dee-hi Heidi KY is that right if we're spelling it phonetically if it's H I that's pronounced hi and then de would be d or debt and then KY all right it is Khalid hello ray hello how are you good evening it's afternoon here good afternoon good evening I love this because some of our students it's like good morning good afternoon good evening we're all of those times right now and we're in one class how cool is that it's very very fun all right and it looks like is it summer or is it the the name with the oh is it whoo-hoo jakey GU Jae Hee is that right hello though either way it's good to see you all right August I'm your favorite tutor awesome well you guys are my favorite students I get to see you every week the same same names and faces and some of you have told your friends and your friends have showed up it's so fun okay I'm not pronouncing it right he d ki he d ki is it he d ki he D KY and it looks like okay it's a Sakura Sakura is that right that's a cool name so hello everybody ha he d ki he d ki okay he d ki alright I think I got it right he D key is it good give me a thumbs up or a smiley face or something okay August its night there okay and it looks like maybe Abdullah is asking what does academic purposes mean that's a great question so about this class

English for academic purposes is a class that's great for a lot of reasons the first reason is if you want to study at an english-speaking university college or high school you can take this class and be prepared to write [time management essay](#) and understand your professors and their lectures how to take notes we teach you all about all right great great comments that just keep coming in that's awesome we teach you all about how to use English in an academic setting so school think school but it's good for a lot of other purposes too for example work if you're working in an english-speaking company or business what I teach you here is useful also in the business place so note-taking it's important to take notes when your boss is presenting about something it's also important to be able to write and communicate effectively so a lot of the things that we cover here I I kind of assume that maybe we're going to university or college or high school in an english-speaking place but I also teach you things that if you if you want to go into business or you want to just become a better communicator in English all of this that I teach will help a lot so that's that's sort of the idea of the class you like my accent awesome well thank you I like it too this is a great place to come study English or or to live if you want to practice English they say that people in the Pacific Northwest where I live here in the United States we have the middle accent like the accent that is most normal or most American so we're very lucky that that we have that I grew up here I've lived here my whole life it's a beautiful place there's lots of nature but there's a big city too so we get you know professional sports teams and big music concerts and lots of cool stuff ok so it looks like I've done a pretty good job of explaining what this class is about I'm sure some of you were excited to get started I will say that well hello to our premium subscribers I see a lot of you here and and thank you for for being here with us if if you're wondering what a premium subscriber is it's it's a subscription you can sign up your first month is free with no obligation to stay signed up so if you sign up for a month and get homework back and feedback in Corrections and you don't like it you can always you know give it up but all of our students that have signed up of stayed because they love it you get feedback from me or whoever your teacher is there's lots of

teachers and classes to choose from you get quizzes and you get a certificate in the end so you'll get a nice certificate says that says you are a smart live trained student and and a thumbs up and we'll also give you personalized feedback so we'll hang out with you on Google Hangouts and talk about your assignments will grade your essays things like that you also you get oh if you want more explanation just ask a question in the chat I'm happy to answer any questions you have I'm gonna take attendance here for our premium subscribers you get access to all this curricula when you you sign up to so you get to explore the lessons on your own time and you're going to kind of go around and study everything so if we don't cover something or if you want more reading practice or listening practice you get access to all of this here so I'm gonna take attendance really quick for our premium subscribers and then we're gonna go into our lesson of course yeah you can ask any questions roses right Thank You Rosa for always being such a good commenter and if you ask me any questions I'll be happy to answer those our topic for today we're gonna kind of pick up where we left off last time we were talking about paragraph unity and our our topic was just how to put information together in a logical fashion so that it connects so soy Mya so Maya I think is how I pronounce that name so Maya hello welcome good to have you here what we've studied so far in this class is has been writing skills listening skills reading skills and note-taking strategy and we've focused a lot more on writing in part because some of our premium subscribers have asked for more writing practice and also because writing and reading are very connected in the English language I've said this several times in several classes but I think it's so important that students understand that if you read something somebody wrote it so they had to take the time to think about how to create that writing and how to deliver information effectively absolutely I'm happy to be patient and I'll answer any questions you guys have so keep them coming in the chat so if you write something down it's because you have something to say you have a message you want someone to understand you and when we write sometimes it's just getting those thoughts out of our brain onto the paper or computer or whatever we're riding on and it's never

perfect right away I'll just tell you that right away when we first write something always consider it something that you want to edit or to rewrite we want to write things several times so we call them drafts you have your rough draft which is your first attempt just to get the message from your mind onto the computer screen or onto the paper and then we we look at it and we read it and we improve it so we say oh you know I didn't really mean that or I want to include more information about this part and we've talked in this class about transitions how to link our ideas together so they flow nicely we've also talked about paragraph unity how to create a paragraph where all the information matters we learned about dr. Fleming and his discovery of penicillin and we excluded personal information that didn't matter like the name of his vacation house that didn't matter but we included personal information that was important like he was messy and he left the staff dishes petri dishes out and that's how he discovered penicillin because some contaminants got in there so we've talked about body transitions we've talked about paragraph unity just briefly I want to go over an essay outline so we've talked about if we're already writing our essay but what an outline is it's our plan to write something so you know how I said just earlier that if we first write something down it's usually not great and we have to rewrite it we can make it a little better if we plan what we want to write in an outline I have all of my students write an outline I remember hating to write outlines myself in college I didn't like it I was like I don't want right now outline I'm just gonna start writing the essay but now oh excuse me for just a moment so sorry about that I didn't know my phone was on it was plugged into the wall and it started to go off so so I used to not like writing outlines but now that I teach it and I realized the value of it from a teaching perspective I always write an outline if I'm going to write anything so okay I'm just checking the chat here to see if anybody has any questions ah roses says an essay outline is like a hamburger yeah that's an analogy I've used before in classes I can zoom in yes of course salut salut ah hello here you go I'll zoom in a little bit so we can read better so I'll just read what's written here and then I'll go into the exercise and we'll talk more about it so after you've researched websites and articles given to you for

your essay you'll need to choose important ideas you want to use and begin to organize them into an effective outline this is the most important part of the process because it will allow you to see your whole essay on one page and you'll be able to check the flow and logical connections between all of your ideas before you even begin creating full sentences so an outline we're gonna use some of our note-taking strategy when we create outlines and you don't have to worry about grammar or complete sentences you just want to get your main ideas out so key words key thoughts ko hey how's it going good to have you welcome back we've seen you lots of before so happy to have you here we're talking about writing and we're talking about creating an essay outline so um this is for the continued class and some of our premium subscribers who are writing essays and if you don't know what I'm talking about don't worry about it it's not a problem we're just talking about if this is your first class it's totally cool we're talking about creating an essay outline and becoming stronger writers but something I will note for anyone who's out there doing research or writing academic papers is when you search websites something to keep in mind is make sure your source is credible and what do I mean by that a credible source is a source you can trust to give you accurate information I'm going to ask a question to the chat Luciano hello welcome back so my question is is the news credible this is gonna have a lot of different opinions I think is the news a credible source is that something we can always trust to be true is the news a credible source it's kind of a trick question so go ahead and answer in the chat there and I'll keep talking about the outline so it is very important when you search for sources that you find credible sources that you can trust them and that they're going to give you accurate information because if you use those sources and you use the information it's your word then in your essay you're citing sources all right good answers I like I like what people are saying here is the news credible Selma says not always Rosa says no it's not and Sakura says no I don't think so I agree with you I don't think the news is necessarily credible they're often owned by corporations and so they sometimes have an agenda what I like to tell my students is if you watch lots of news channels or read lots of

newspapers from many different countries and many different perspectives then you'll have an eeh of the truth but it's still not 100% true right so we have to sort of pick sources and choose ones to sources that are most credible that we can trust the most and Salewa says Wikipedia is not a credible source yeah normally I would say you're right Wikipedia is not a totally credible source because it can be edited by your average person you can be an editor for Wikipedia I would say it's a good starting point you can usually find where their sources are linked at the bottom or to get a general idea about something but we can't we can't trust it to be a hundred percent accurate or hundred 100 percent true it's really hard to trust anything at a hundred percent truth it's good to ask questions and good to challenge information that we're given so I mean if I ever teach you something and tell you something I would encourage you to challenge me if you think I'm wrong tell me say hey I do I disagree I don't think that's correct because I'm human I'm flawed I can make mistakes so think about that as you're researching for any paper you're writing we we want to choose better sources more reliable sources when we write and Selma says the news is censored and information that can be modified we shouldn't believe all the news yeah don't believe everything you see in the news because it's probably not quite 100% and sometimes it's not even close okay so here's a pattern this is one way to do an outline it's very important you know that there's lots of different ways to do outlines this is a good way though so if you are a premium subscriber you can log in you can make a copy this document and write in it we're gonna just go over this pattern and keep in mind we do not use full sentence structure so this is like taking notes it's like notes about what we want to write so they're just notes from our that we're getting down on the page roses question is can YouTube be a credible source yes it is possible to cite YouTube videos in academic essays now it does take a little more work to research and find out who is the the publisher who is the author of the video I like to use us as an example any grammar that we teach or any English aspect that you find on our YouTube channel is going to be accurate we have many teachers looking at it and if one of us makes a mistake we are quick to fix it

so if you know the source if it's a trusted source you can get reliable information but there's a lot of video there's more videos on YouTube that are not credible so it wouldn't be my first choice in an academic paper to cite a YouTube video unless I had to unless that was the only place I could find the information but yeah you can you can cite those and we'll talk about that when we go more into APA formatting and citations which is coming up soon Rosa I know you're excited about that and you were asking lots of great questions and your homework so thank you yeah it's like brainstorming so we break up I've said this before when I talked about essays in this class I'm going to talk about the five paragraph essay five paragraphs it's the easiest way to describe the layout of an essay in the English language and questions last week were does a paragraph or a dozen essay have to be five paragraphs is that a limitation no some essays are many many paragraphs dozens of paragraphs or more but the reason we use say five is because it's broken into five parts so you have your introduction which gives you the basic information of the essay and it introduces the thesis which is the most important sentence or section of any essay because it's your main message then you have three body paragraphs we think of those as supporting the topic and supporting the thesis so those three body paragraphs are evidence or information supporting your main point so for example if I wanted to write an essay that was a persuasive essay I'm trying to say hey students should come to America to study English so I'm trying to persuade people I'm trying to say why that is a good thing to do I'm gonna choose three main points to support that claim that that message that I want to give so one first body paragraph I might say living in America provides immersion so it allows people to hear and use English all the time 24 hours a day if they want so that would be my main point and I would maybe look up a statistic like amount of time that it takes a student to become fluent in English studying in America versus a student becoming fluent studying English in a non-english speaking country so I do research I would find that information that evidence and that would support in my first body paragraph my second body paragraph I would come up with another supporting arguments I

might say well there are more native native speaking teachers in America so then I focus on the teachers and I come up with statistics or numbers and then I would choose a third point and so you see how we sort of form these supporting paragraphs that prove our point that we're trying to make they give evidence and details about supporting arguments for our main message our thesis so within those paragraphs we break it down here for you so you can see this is introduction so this would be like my first paragraph I would say the general statement or a hook sentence to try to get the attention of my reader and then I tell you what what I'm going to write about and be careful with that please never write in an essay I'm going to write about blah blah blah that's a sentence that I cross out of every single student essay I ever see it written in we don't want to say we're writing about a topic just say the topic studying English in America is important that's a better sentence then I'm going to write to you today about studying English in America that's a very weak sentence so just state your point Rosa asks can we use questions in the introduction yes you can use questions and there are different types of questions we use in essays usually in an essay a question is a rhetorical question what is a rhetorical question a rhetorical question is a question that I already know the answer to but I ask it anyway why would I do that to put the idea in someone else's mind to make someone else think about the idea even if they also already know the answer and here's an example for all of you in the chat right now if I posed the question rhetorical question I don't really want you to answer it that's what a rhetorical question is it's a question you ask that you don't want someone to answer you just want them to think about a concept if I said have you ever seen a purple elephant have you ever seen a purple elephant of course you and I both know that the answer is no probably I doubt you've seen a purple elephant but what are you thinking about right now in your mind a purple elephant right I've put that idea in your mind simply by asking a rhetorical question so that is a strategy and a way that we can get our readers or if you're presenting our list to think about an idea we put that idea in their minds by asking a rhetorical question so I hope that answers your question Rosa so yes you can use questions in in any

paragraph in an essay academic essay and they're usually used in introductions to as a hook to grab attention or as a rhetorical question to get our readers to think about a topic or a concept yes Selma you are right teachers hate when students announce the topic in their essays but we do want the student to say the topic we just want them to deliver it by delivering the topic instead of saying I'm going to talk about blah blah blah we don't like that and it's not because we think students are bad writers we just want our students to be the strongest writers out there if we are teaching English we want our students to write essays that will change the world change people's minds about topics or you know solve world hunger or create world peace something like that but we only do that through effective communication and writing is a good way to do that so Rosa's other question is can two paragraphs for one against one paragraph for two against can you clarify your question for me I'm a little confused as to what you are asking there and August says outlining feels irritating the students yep I agree I never liked outlining but I will tell you that if you are willing to take the time to outline your essay before you write it you will be a stronger writer I can promise that if we know our plan it's easier to follow it if we just try to write from memory and we're gonna forget or get sidetracked or include information that's not necessary so writing an outline is a very powerful way to write a strong piece of writing so the best way to motivate you is hopefully what I just said letting you know that if you want to be a strong writer make yourself do the outline to this day I still have to force myself to write my outlines I have to say if I don't do this my essays gonna be weaker and I don't want to be weak writer I want to be a strong writer so I make myself do outlines that way and Abdulla I think it's I'm doula I'm glad you agree with me thank you so this is like our first paragraph here the introduction thesis statement and I generally highlight my upcoming paragraphs so it's sort of like a transition from the introduction to the body paragraphs but again I don't say I'm going to talk about this this and this I would just say this is important as well as this and this whatever my topic might be okay Rosa your question in an argumentative essay it can be one paragraph for something two paragraphs against something or two

paragraphs against and one for that's a great question remember you're not limited to those five paragraphs the reason I said five is because we have our introduction those three body paragraphs and our conclusion but really the body paragraphs can be any number you want I've actually seen very strong student essays that are only four paragraphs it's an introduction and two body points and then a conclusion I've also seen very strong essays and very well written essays that are like 20 paragraphs so you'd start with introduction and then 18 body paragraphs and then a conclusion it's just gonna be a lot longer you're gonna have many points to make so if you're writing an argumentative essay I would say ask your teacher how long they want the essay to be they'll probably give you a page length not an amount of paragraphs and then it's up to you how many paragraphs you write remember paragraphs are designed to organize information that's related so just think about what one argument is to support your thesis like what one point or piece of evidence that you want to discuss is and use a paragraph to organize that information if you have additional points just add on paragraphs it would be rare for a teacher to say please write a five paragraph argumentative essay and I want one paragraph to be four and two against it's sort of up to you what I will say is if it's an argumentative essay you probably want all of the paragraphs to be for something or all of the paragraphs to be against something you must be careful if you're arguing a point that's very debatable how much voice you give to the opposing idea you do want to acknowledge it and sort of say I understand people feel this way but that's not how I feel and then you want to stick to your point and only stay focused on if you're for something or against something that would be my advice for you CheY CheY is it che che or shishi che che good morning hello all right so how many sentences are supposed to be written in a paragraph is August question great question what I teach my students is no paragraph should be fewer than five sentences and that's sort of my rule for my students I want to see five sentences to create a paragraph if you are creating big elaborate compound-complex sentences maybe you could get away with two or three and it would still look like a good paragraph the length of the

paragraph is really how much you want to talk about one idea or one supporting piece of evidence but a good just sort of number to keep in your mind is a good paragraph should probably have at least five sentences in it how long it should be is a question of if you're staying on topic or not make sure if your paragraph starts to get like half a page you look at it and you ask yourself the question am I still talking about the same subject am I still making the same point you might want to break it up a little bit roses question what do we exactly include in the thesis statements like if we're going to talk about causes in the body paragraph should I include those reasons in the thesis statement great question yes and no generally the thesis statement does not include the topics of the body so here you see we have three three main bits of information in our introduction we have a general statement which you can think of as essay topic like what are you going to talk about specifically but but generally speaking and then you have your thesis which is your main point and then you have sort of previews of your argument so I teach my students to actually put the thesis statement as the last sentence of their introduction paragraph so for example a very very simple English essay I might begin with let's say I'm writing about I don't know I want to I want to argue that war is terrible right it's a very weak essay topic because it's so general but I want to say war is a terrible part of humanity that's kind of a hook right Wars is damaging because it creates poverty hurts human life and destroys society and culture right so those three points so you can kind of preview and know what my body paragraphs are going to be about and then my thesis statement is going to be a strong opinion something like we must end war now like it's a strong statement right I use the modal must we must end war now so that's just off the top of my head I can send an email and maybe create a stronger introduction example paragraph for you but we would preview our topics for the body paragraphs and we would end probably on our thesis statement separate from that it's own sentence and that would be our strong opinion our main message of our essay great question in August what is the difference between the general statement and the thesis okay and oh it's your first class it looks like che che so hello thank you for

joining us so to answer a question what is the difference between a general statement and a thesis the general statement is our main topic but it's not our main message so for example my previous attempt at an introduction my topic is war is bad right but that's it aligns with my message but my message is we must end war now that's a different statement than war is bad saying war is bad does not call action does not command any action it's just making an observation right my thesis usually calls for action it's my main message but if I'm writing my main message it's because I want some change to happen so we must end war now is my thesis my topic my general statement is war is bad does that help a little bit hopefully okay Luciana hello welcome it's okay if you're late we're happy to have you how time is going by very quickly today so our introduction has our general statement which is our topic our thesis statement which is our message and then it introduces our points to our body paragraphs so this is what a body paragraph would look like it would be our first point which will have a topic sentence and remember transition sentences will go between body paragraphs so it'll have our topic sentence which describes what we're going to talk about in our paragraph so by the first sentence you should know what information is going to be included in that body paragraph and this is a reading strategy as well if you're studying and you have to read a lot of information you can usually read the first sentence of a paragraph or maybe sometimes the first two sentences and get a general idea as to the information that's contained inside so if you're taking a test like TOEFL or IELTS and you have to search for information in many paragraphs very quickly you can look at topic sentences the first sentence of a paragraph and understand what information is probably contained in that paragraph marcelo asks and hello by the way can we join one paragraph with the next one do we just change the point yes you can join paragraphs so it might be the same point and you have enough information to talk about the point from two different perspectives so you might separate that into two different paragraphs if you watch our last class or two classes ago we talked about body transitions body paragraph transitions and how to make those effectively in your writing so yes you

absolutely can span one topic in multiple paragraphs you'll just want to connect those with good transition sentences nezu says should the general statement conclude just one sentence so I think you're asking if the general statement must be only one sentence no not necessarily when we're talking about the simplest form of a five paragraph essay in English I usually tell my students okay five sentences in each paragraph your topic sentence supporting sentences and then your conclusion sentence or transition sentence but you might spend a couple sentences talking about your your topic or your general statement sometimes you want to grab the attention of the reader so you'll pose a rhetorical question or you might want to state a fact or you might want to quote someone or some piece of information so sometimes you'll use percentages numbers figures so I would say your general statement can span several sentences if you want but a good rule is to just remind yourself or ask yourself the question is what I'm writing important for this topic in this essay does it support my thesis you you have to introduce the the idea of the paragraph but we want to use every single word to deliver a powerful message so just keep that in mind it's sort of a balance between being entertaining as a writer making our writing interesting something that somebody wants to read and also only including the most important information so you don't want to bore anybody but you don't want to leave out important details either so it's kind of a balance okay hopefully that answered everybody's questions Rosa asks can I start by writing body paragraphs than the introduction yes absolutely in fact it sounds kind of crazy when I tell students this they always stop and say what but I often say that the introduction paragraph should be the last paragraph you write of your essay we oftentimes don't know what we want to say till we're already saying it that's why the outline helps oh sorry that's why the outline forgive me the outline is helpful because it lets us plan out what we want to talk about but when we actually write our essay sometimes we'll start with the body paragraphs our support because we know what our thesis is probably and sometimes you don't know exactly how to word your thesis you know kind of what you want to say but by the time you're done writing your support your body paragraphs you'll have a

stronger thesis so if you do write it you should revisit it and look at it and possibly edit it or you can just save it for the end once you know what how to articulate your main message luciano says is there a limit of lines to write it it depends on the assignment like if we're in school your teachers will usually give you parameters for the essay they're usually page lengths so let's say I want a four page essay a five page essay but the amount of lines not really a paragraph should probably be not longer than half a page that's a pretty long paragraph but sometimes they are so it really depends okay so this is what the body paragraphs will look like they'll be our main topic and then support our details and the source which we'll talk more about for APA formatting and then analysis analysis is where we we cite a source so we give information but then we we analyze it we say our thoughts about it and we're going to talk more about this in detail later on yes Rosa we're going to talk about quotations we're actually out of time for today so I won't be able to go into it because I don't want to miss anything I don't want to skip through it very quickly because quotations and how we make APA citations and quotations is going to be basically a whole class so please be patient I promise we'll talk about it in detail and I'll try to do that class sooner than later but I want to prepare it for everyone and give lots of great examples okay and John wrote an essay recently with a couple long paragraphs go ahead and email it to me if you want some information about it I'd love to take a look so I do have to go class time is just about out we have to end just a little bit early today but please come back again tell your friends review this information if you are a premium subscriber and if not you can sign up if you go to let me find the website for you really quick I will share that in the chats I should have it memorized by now but it's a smart english.com /live I believe and I'll copy and paste it in the chat really quick here for you but if your premium subscriber we can get you feedback on your essays you'll get a chat with me one on one and there's the website right there and Thank You obvious I am your teacher I wish I was at your university - that'd be fun and maybe come visit our College here in America if you guys want information about the school where I teach at just go to USA - english.com and there's lots of great soups not that one there's

lots of great information there for you english.com and you can apply online sign up this is my college here USA - English com we're in Spokane Washington I'm in a studio right at the top of these stairs here so thank you so much for being in class and come back on Tuesdays and Thursdays the same time I'll be here happy to teach you we'll work on more writing and Rosa don't worry we are going to go over APA formatting and talk about how to insert quotations and citations in our essay so thank you so much thank you so much thank you everybody I really appreciate you being here have a wonderful day