

Organizing Your Essay Using the "Classical System"

1. **Introduction** (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Gain reader's attention and interest.
 - Make a claim about an issue that is debatable or controversial.
 - Establish common ground with readers.
 - State your thesis.

2. **Background** (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Present any necessary background information.
 - Qualify your claim, if necessary.
 - Explain the warrants (underlying assumptions) that connects your claim and your reasons. If warrant is controversial, provide backing for it.

3. **Lines of Argument** (2-4 paragraphs)
 - Provide grounds (reasons) to support your claim (facts, statistics, testimony, the use of other logical, ethical, or emotional appeals).
 - Present reasons in order of importance.
 - Demonstrate ways your argument may be in the reader's best interest.

4. **Consider Alternative Views** (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Acknowledge and respond to possible counter-arguments using conditions of rebuttal.
 - Note advantages and disadvantages of alternative views.
 - Explain why one view is better than others.

5. **Conclusion** (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Summarize your argument.
 - Elaborate the implications of your thesis.
 - Make it clear what you want readers to think or do.
 - Make a strong ethical or emotional appeal.