STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY

Introduction (10% of total words)

• Gains the reader’s attention
• Provides brief background material about the meaning, context & significance of the topic. Includes definitions of keywords if necessary.
• Identifies the 'gap', problem or issue outlined in the question. Gives the reader some understanding of the order in which the ideas in the essay will be presented.
• Clearly identifies the author’s point of view in a thesis statement.

The body of an essay
(100 -200 words each paragraph)

• Your argument is developed through paragraphs. Each paragraph should contain only one main idea, as stated by the topic sentence.
• Each paragraph supports the main idea by
  • explaining the issue, and providing evidence - e.g. quotes, statistics, facts, examples, case studies.
• Decide how many points you wish to make and in what order.
• Link the paragraphs together.
• Make sure paragraphs follow in logical sequence (as promised in the Introduction) so that the essay flows towards the conclusion.

The conclusion (10% of total words)

• Sum up your main points.
• Tie these back to the thesis statement.
• Avoid adding new material or using quotes.
• Possibly comment or make recommendations for further discussion of topic.