

YORKWAC Infobase

Organizing Your Paper

We all know 3 is the magic number. Every story needs a beginning, middle, and end. That's true for most writing assignments as well, although we call them the introduction, body, and conclusion. Here's a brief look at the work each part of your paper needs to do.

1. Introduction

- a. What are you writing about? (Your general topic)
- b. Why are you writing about it? (Your purpose, goal, objective)
- c. What's your thesis? (Concise statement of your main contention)
- d. What's coming up? (Overall plan of your paper)

2. Body

- a. Divide the body into sections
- b. Use subheads to keep your sections focused
- c. Make claims
- d. Support your claims with evidence
- e. Cite the sources of your evidence properly

3. Conclusion

- a. Briefly summarize your argument
- b. Connect your argument to larger social or cultural issues
- c. State the implications of your findings for your field or discipline

The **YORKWAC Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

If you want more information on organizing your paper, you might want to try:

Infosheet #2, Planning Your Introduction

Infosheet #3, Planning the Body of Your Paper

Infosheet #4, Planning Your Conclusion