

A LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR REVISING ESSAYS

The purpose of a paper is to communicate an idea (perspective, main point) about your subject. That means that the information you include should explain, illustrate, or otherwise provide information about this main point. In addition, the essay should progress in a logical manner. The important points should provide a “frame” (a solid structure) for your essay which is then filled in with the specific details and examples. To help you look at your draft with this in mind, complete the following steps:

1. Carefully read your draft. When you're finished, write your main idea (thesis) at the top of the paper. Be as specific as possible.
2. Draw a line across the page at the end of the essay's introduction.
3. Answer the following questions in the left margin:
S= What is the subject of the introduction? (what is it about?)
P= What is the point of the introduction? (what is its significant point?)
4. On a separate sheet of paper, consider this question: Are the subject and point of the introduction clearly expressed? Explain.
5. Then on the original paper, box in any phrases or sentence(s) that clearly state the subject and point of the introduction.
6. Draw a line at the end of the next section of the essay. Again summarize the subject and point in the margin and complete steps 4 and 5.
7. Repeat this process for each section of the paper.

When you have finished identifying the subjects and points, think about the following questions:

1. What contribution does each point make to the paper?
2. How does each section relate to the thesis statement or main point? Do any sections seem unconnected to the thesis? If so, which ones?
3. Are there any points that need to be expressed more clearly? Which ones?
4. Are the points given in the most effective order? Are the sections well connected or would some transitions be helpful?