Informative essay (coherence and cohesion)

Part 01 : informative essay :

- **What is an informative essay ?**
  It is an academic paper that is written mainly to communicate a specific information i.e educate your reader on a specific topic. It can be used to define a term, compare and cotrast something, analyze data, or present a process (how-to), however, it is not used to present an opinion or to persuade your reader.

- **What are the three parts of an essay ?**
  - Introduction :
    - ✓ Define the topic.
    - ✓ Provide short background information on the chosen topic
    - ✓ Create a thesis statement in which you identify the main reason why you are writing this informative essay.
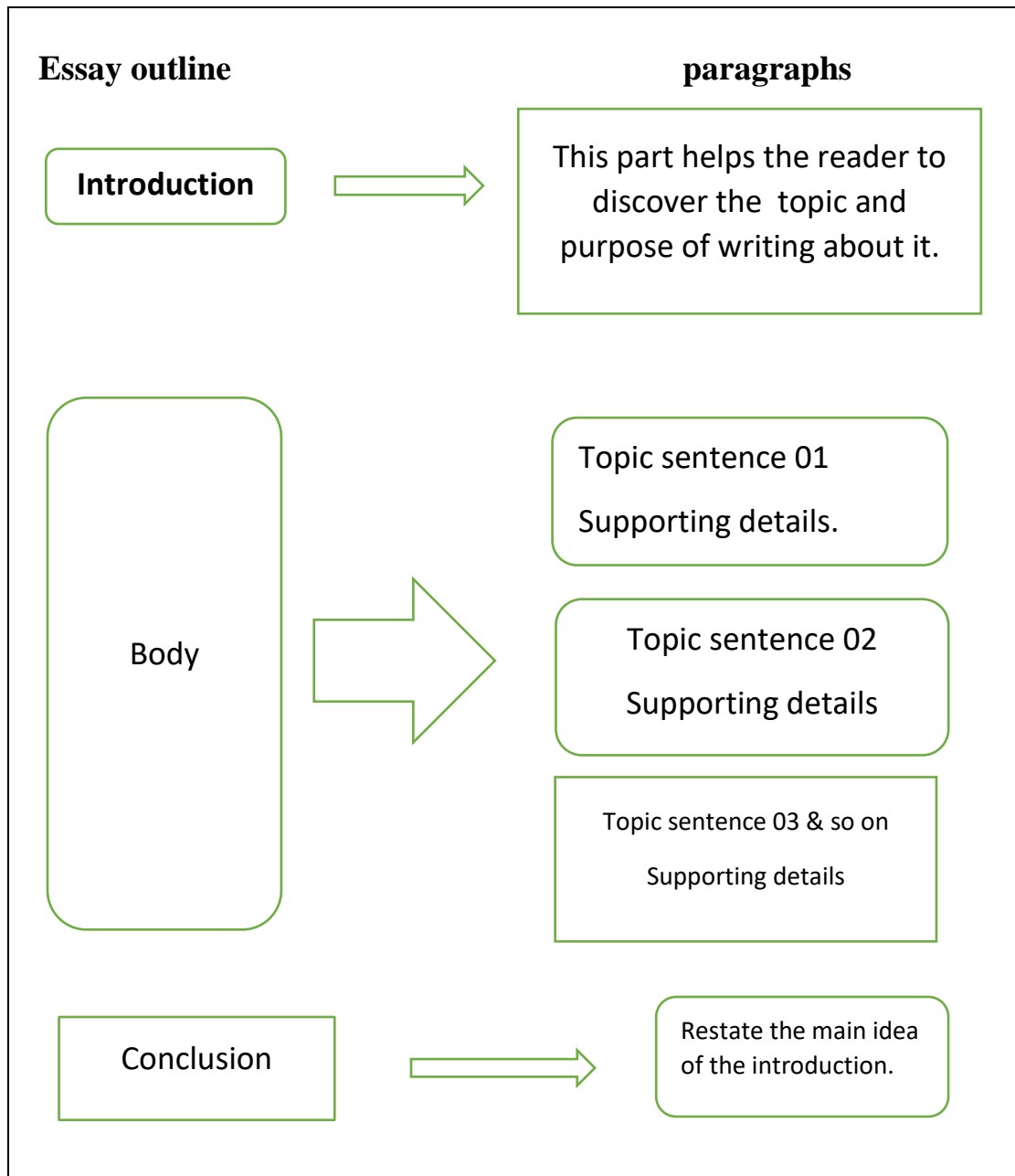 - Body :
    - ✓ In this part you should develop your main ideas into paragraphs each paragraph should contain a topic sentence and supporting details.
      - Note : **A topic sentence** is the most important sentence in a paragraph. It is reffered to as a focus sentence because it's the key that will help you to understand the essay meaning.
  - Conclusion : in this last part you sum up and restate your main point in a new way. To do so you can :
    - ✓ Summarize key points.
    - ✓ Make a prediction.
    - ✓ offer a suggestion.
    - ✓ Explain the topic's importance.

- **What is the basic structure of an essay ?**

Essay outline   **paragraphs**

Introduction → This part helps the reader to discover the topic and purpose of writing about it.

Body →

Topic sentence 01

Supporting details.

Topic sentence 02

Supporting details

Topic sentence 03 & so on

Supporting details

Conclusion → Restate the main idea of the introduction.

- **Tips to write a good informative essay :**
   - ✓ To have an introduction that introduces a topic and grabs the reader's attention.
   - ✓ Clearly convey information and ideas about the topic.
   - ✓ Develop your topic with relevent facts.
   - ✓ Organize your ideas and information using strategies such as : compare and contrast, cause and effect or classification….
   - ✓ Use illustrations and examples to make your topic easier to understand.

✓ Use appropriate vocabulary to the topic.
✓ Use formal language.
✓ The essay should be coherent and cohesive.

Part 02 : coherence and cohesion in writing (paragraph / essay) :

- **What is coherence ?** it describes the way the elements of sentences work together to produce meaning. It refers to connectivity in the text. It helps the reader to understand easily the writing.
  - Note : coherence is a noun / coherent is an adjective.
- **What is cohesion ?** It refers to the way we use vocabulary and grammatical structures to make connections between the ideas within a text. It makes the paragraphs easier to understand.
  - **cohesion with NO coherence :** when you write about something and you use sentences that are perfectly linked and connected together but you read it, it really makes no sense. **Example :** you start writing about the working issues in our country, then you end up speaking about your family. So in this case your paragraph may be cohesive but definitely it is not coherent. Since the reader understands the meaning of each sentence but there is no logic in the way they are linked.
  - **Coherence with NO cohesion** : in this case you may write without using connectors to join the ideas together, so they may not fit together**.** Example : I drink water. I look to the sky. I love fast food. Obviousily there is no connection between the sentences. We understand and they are coherent but not cohesive since they are not connected.

- **Exercise : write a coherent and cohesive informative essay using cause and effect expressions.**