**Introduction**

GENERAL STATEMENT: This is a statement that gives context to your paper and eases your reader into the subject.

* Briefly introduce the topic and explain how the question or issue will be answered answered. This is done through a sentence (known as the ‘thesis statement’) that directly addresses or answers the essay topic.

(A thesis statement is the main point of an essay. It summarises the main aim of the essay and tells the reader what to expect in terms of an answer to the essay question (if it is given as a question) or to outline the main point being made. What will you be discussing? What will you be arguing?)

Example:

Topic 1

This essay outlines *the* *influence of Islamic philosophy on the development of education system in (the UAE or any country)* *and argues that Islamic philosophy is foundational in each stage of the development of schools and educational institutional.*

Topic 2

This essay outlines *the* *development of early forms of educational institutions in (the UAE or any country)* *and their influence in today’s education system and argues that while some major changes have taken place, some challenges still remain.*

**Education in (country) during Period 1 (19xx – 19xx)**

This is the bulk of your essay. The body of an essay should be composed of the points you use to support your thesis statement. Each point (or subtopic) should be separated into its own paragraph. POINT #1: (Repeat for subsequent points)

1. Topic sentence: Introduces what your paragraph will be about
2. Examples/research/evidence that will be used to explore the idea
3. Analysis of example/research/evidence—explain how this proves or backs up your thesis/topic sentence
4. Prevalent philosophy
5. Concluding sentence: this should end the paragraph by tying the point back to the thesis statement and lead into the next point.

(A *topic sentence* is the main idea for a paragraph. (This idea is sometimes referred to as an ‘argument’). You should be able to identify one clear topic sentence for each paragraph. It is usually (but not always) the first sentence. It tells the reader what to expect to read about in that paragraph. The idea expressed by the topic sentence should relate to the overall main aim of the essay (the thesis statement).)

Example: One of the most frequently cited initiatives for addressing climate change is the development of education programs for consumers that explain how to identify products that are more environmentally sustainable. If you show just your topic sentences to your tutor or lecturer, she/he should be able to get a good idea of what your essay if about. Checking the topic sentences for each of your paragraphs is a good way to see if your ideas are clear, and that you are not repeating the same point. If you find your paragraph contains additional information that doesn’t relate to your topic sentence, you might need to move this extra information to another paragraph or create a new paragraph with a new topic sentence.

The other sentences in your body paragraphs

The remainder of the ideas in the paragraph should elaborate on the topic sentence by providing more detailed description and explanation, or by providing examples. These ideas make up the evidence that backs up the idea or argument expressed by your topic sentence.

As part of the evidence you provide for each of your topic sentences, you draw on ideas from a range of sources (e.g. the set readings for the unit or other readings your have located yourself through your research into the topic. These include materials from journals, books, reports and other sources, both hard copy materials as well as those available digitally via the internet). In the diagram the ideas taken from other sources are acknowledged using in text references following the Harvard style (e.g. Buzz 2001).

**Education in (country) during Period 2 (19xx – 19xx)**

**Education in (country) during Period 3 (19xx – 20xx)**

**Conclusion**

* Summarize the main points of your essay and re-state your thesis
* Explain how the question or issue has been answered.
* ‘Thesis statement’ that directly addresses or answers the essay topic.