

Example essay structure: Hierarchically-organized taxonomy

- I. Introduction
 - A. Background
 - B. Vocabulary
 - C. Thesis (statement with a subject and a verb)
- II. Way thesis is true
 - A. Specific way thesis is true
 - 1. Evidence
 - 2. Evidence
 - B. Specific way thesis is true
 - 1. Evidence
 - 2. Evidence
- III. Way thesis is true
 - A. Specific way thesis is true
 - 1. Evidence
 - 2. Evidence
 - B. Specific way thesis is true
 - 1. Evidence
 - 2. Evidence
- IV. Way thesis is true
 - A. Specific way thesis is true
 - 1. Evidence
 - 2. Evidence
 - B. Specific way thesis is true
 - 1. Evidence
 - 2. Evidence
- V. Implications of thesis

Bullet points at a given hierarchical level are related, but not redundant.

When passages of text superficially sound similar, human beings can mistake them for having the same semantic content. When passages of text having identical semantic content sound superficially dissimilar, human beings can mistake them for having distinct semantic content. Writing essays using the above structure helps us **to practice parsing** (to read closely for precisely the meaning that is represented by the literal text, no more, no less).

You can use this writing method in the biological sciences when you need to make the claim that an underappreciated phenomenon is pervasive, and, thus, important.

To listen to examples of this type of writing, watch Scott Budman's television news segments on KNTV News Channel 11 from the early 2000s.