Example essay structure: Linked argument

I. Introduction of topic and thesis
   A. Briefly summarize background

   B. Briefly outline essay (scaffolding)

II. Background not known to general audiences

III. Deduced conclusion:

   A. Clarification of statement

      1. Examples (if needed to clarify meaning of statement)

      2. Context in which statement applies

      3. Limitations/*caveats*

   B. Supporting reason(s)

      1. Evidence/quotations

      2. Axioms/postulates

      3. Theorems

IV. . . . (as many deduced conclusions as needed)

V. Final deduced conclusion = intended thesis

If deduced conclusion Y depends on deduced conclusion X, present deduced conclusion X earlier in the essay.

This is basically the format of the two-column proof used in middle school and high school geometry. Using this structure allows us to deduce conclusions that we do not already know. This is one of the tools that allow us **to produce knowledge**.