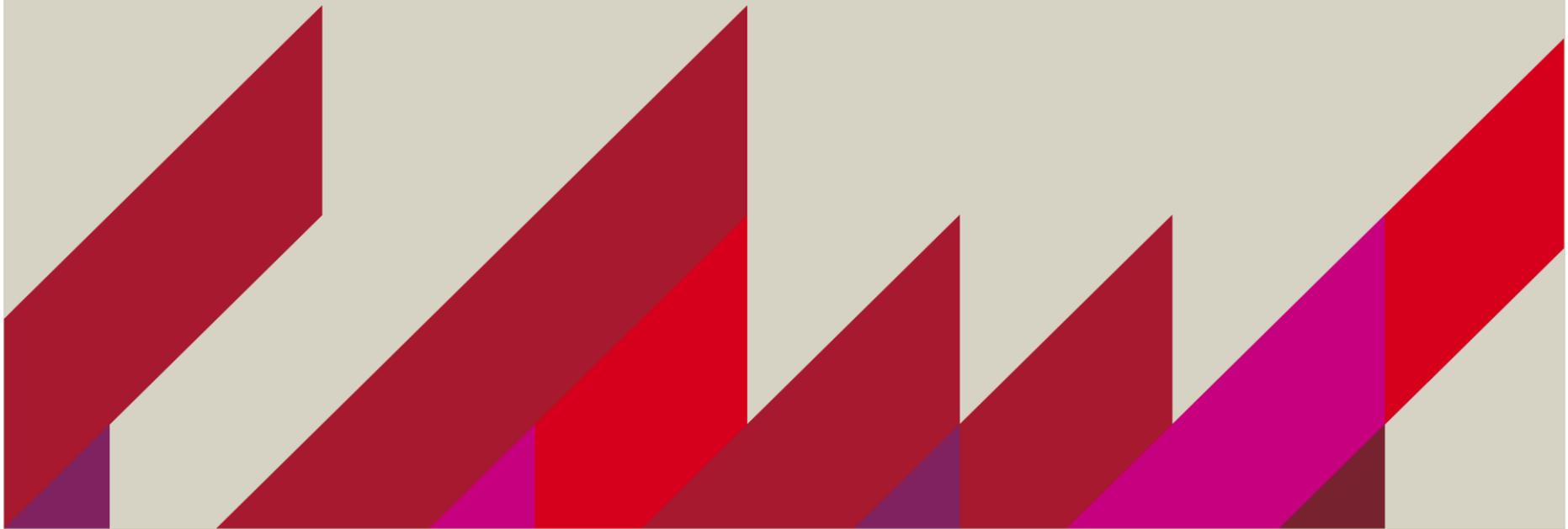


Essay Structure

LEARNING SKILLS



Workshop Overview

- What is an essay?
- Basic structure
- Planning your essay
- Structuring your essay
 - Introductions
 - Body paragraphs
 - Conclusions
- Final steps in checking your structure

Purpose of an essay

The purpose of an essay at university is NOT to demonstrate your knowledge.

The purpose of an essay is:

- to demonstrate that you are aware that ‘knowledge’ is always contested
- to join an ongoing discussion within the ‘community’ of your discipline
- to help that community evaluate the ‘knowledge’ that is always evolving within that discipline

Purpose of an essay

This means you are helping to evaluate theories, ideas or concepts being put forward by others. To do this you need to examine:

- the evidence they have used,
- the way they have interpreted that evidence,
- any assumptions, biases or fallacies in their argument

You may even put forward your own theories, ideas or evidence.

Arguments in essay

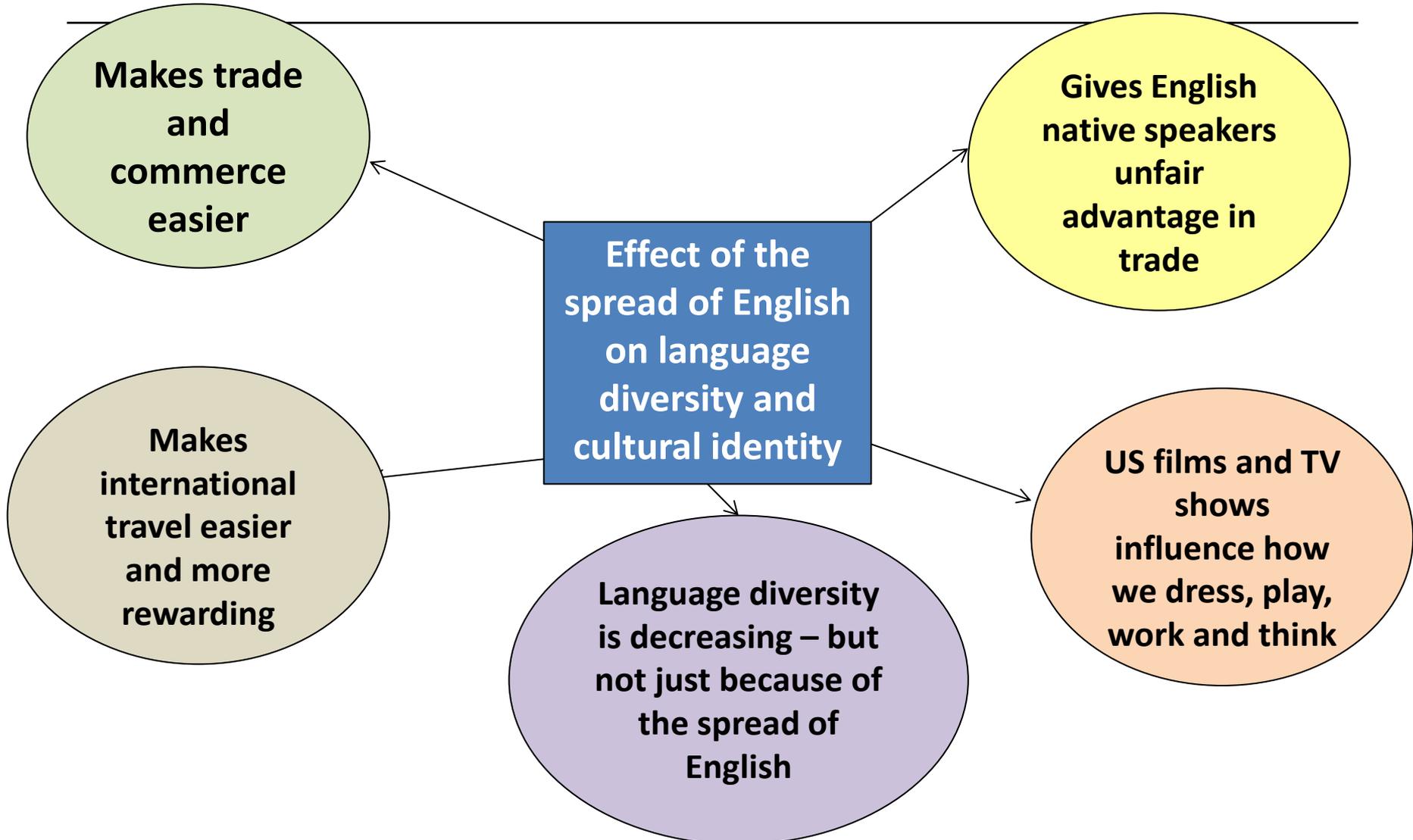
Some form of argument is found in all essays, often based around:

- Arguments for and against a particular idea, theory or concept
- Comparing and contrasting two or more different ideas, theories or concepts
- Reviewing the literature on a topic and suggesting areas where new research needs to be conducted
- Proposing your own theory or idea to explain something

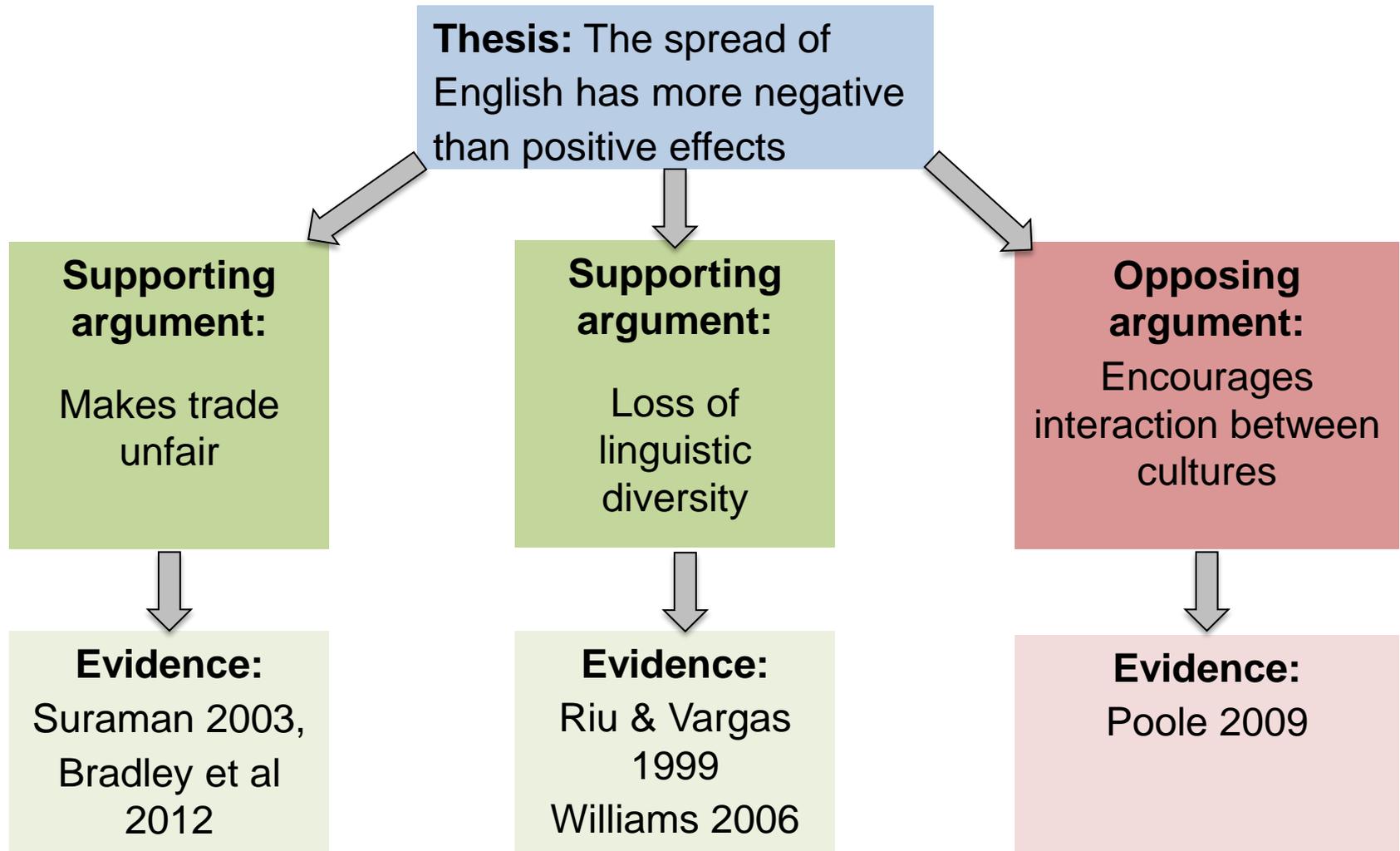
Basic Structure

| | |
|---|--|
| Cover Sheet | |
| Introduction | 10% of word count |
| Body Paragraph 1 Paragraph 2 Paragraph 3 | 80% of word count The number of paragraphs depends on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the length of the essay• the number of ideas/issues you want to include |
| Conclusion | 10% of word count |
| Reference List | List of sources referred to in the essay |

Concept Map



Mapping your argument

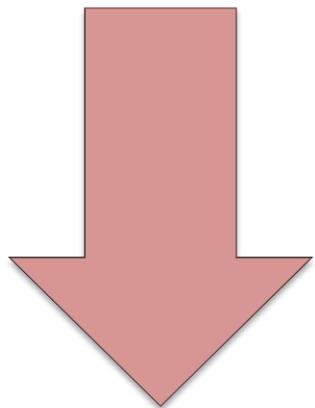


Introduction

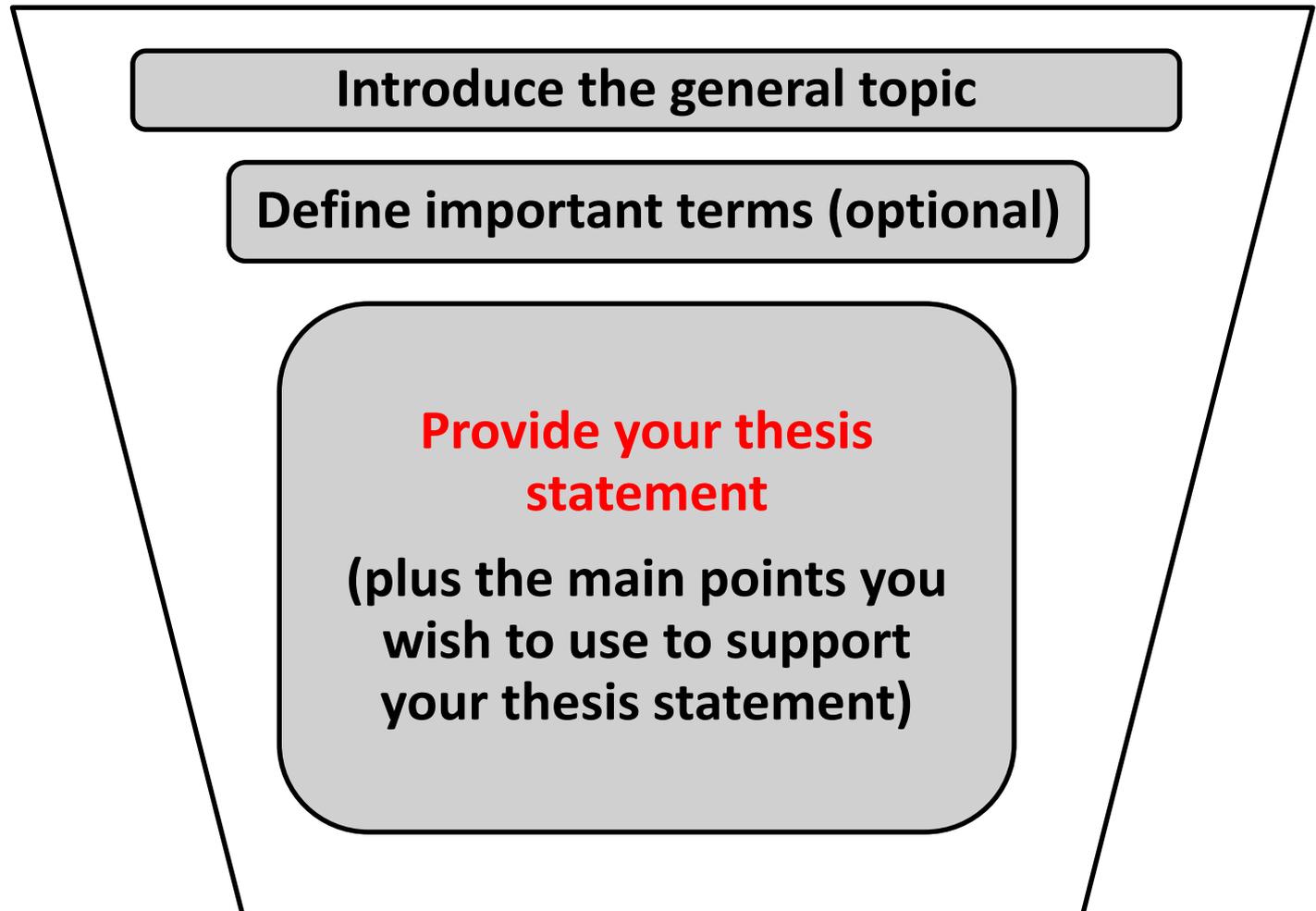
In a globalised world, the spread of English has adversely affected language diversity and cultural identity. Discuss.

What would you include in the Introduction of this essay?

Introduction



**From
general to
specific
information**



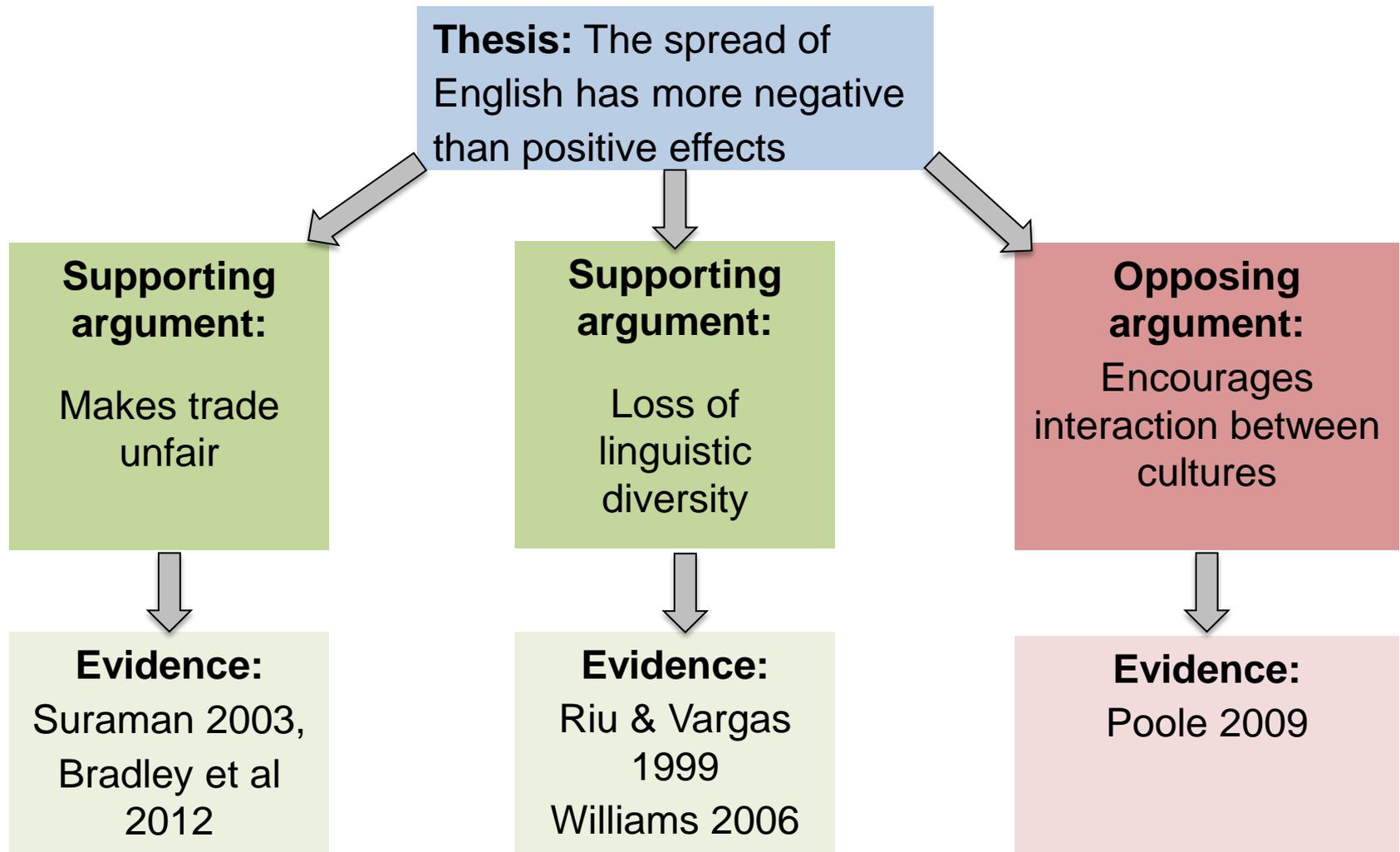
Example Introduction

As the world economy has become further interconnected through the process of globalisation, the need for a common global language, has increased over the last fifty years. For a variety of reasons, English has become that global language, with over 1.1 billion speakers. While this has made communication between people of various nations easier, there are significant issues that need consideration. **This essay will discuss some of the effects of the spread of English on language diversity and cultural identity, and argue that the negatives far outweighs the positives.**

Example Introduction

As the world economy has become further interconnected through the process of globalisation, the need for a common global language, has increased over the last fifty years. For a variety of reasons, English has become that global language, with over 1.1 billion speakers. **Although it could be argued that this has made communication between people of various nations easier, it has also had some extremely negative outcomes, especially in the areas of linguistic and cultural diversity.**

Mapping your argument



Main body

Generally the topic sentence of each paragraph will relate to the main supporting arguments from your argument map/outline.

e.g.

One of the main areas of concern with the spread of English is that it leads to an imbalance in international trade, which tends to favour English-speaking countries. Suruman (2006) looked at the results of free-trade negotiations and found that.....

Main body

*Another negative affect of the spread of English is that **it leads to** a loss of linguistic diversity.*

OR

Linguistic diversity has also reduced significantly in the last fifty years, and many researchers have linked this directly to the spread of English (Rui & Vargas 1999, Williams 2006, Johnston et al. 2010).

Main body: counter-arguments



However, not all aspects of the spread of English are negative. Poole (2009) examined data relating to international migration, as well as tourism-related international travel, and found that....

Conclusions

Conclusions provide the signal that the essay is finished. A good conclusion should:

- Restate the thesis briefly
- Summarise the main arguments that support the thesis
- Provide a final comment, prediction or recommendation.

Conclusions should never contain new arguments or new evidence to support your thesis.

Proofreading and editing

Always complete your first draft well before the due date.

You need time between when you finish the draft and when you proofread and edit it.

The first time you read it through, look only at the structure:

- Is your overall thesis clear?
- Do your supporting arguments clearly help to demonstrate your thesis?
- Have you included sufficient evidence to support your arguments?

Online Learning Resources

STUDY WISE

- Improve your learning strategies
- Develop your academic writing

Academic Integrity Module for Students

- Learn what plagiarism is and how to avoid it
- Understand the MQ Academic Honesty Policy



Ask a Learning Adviser

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