# **Basic essay structure**

Thesis statement: Argument 1: Argument 2:

I recommend no more than two arguments, one is also possible. In that case prove it twice with two different quotes

Word count: ± 600 (range 540 – 660)

**Introduction: ± 100 words**

Introduction. Mention general theme, book and author and gradually work towards an argumentative thesis statement. Check whether it is argumentative = “Yes it’s true, no it’s not”

In the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, the main protagonist, Oliver, is a spoilt brat because he demands private sleeping quarters in the orphanage and requests a footman to help him get dressed.

**± 200 words**

Open with a topic sentence repeating more or less the thesis and first argument. Elaborate and follow with a quote to prove your point. ( An essay of only 600 words requires a short and specific quote, the longer, the more difficult to explain) Then explain the quote as different readers may have different interpretations. End this paragraph with a transition to the next.

Open with a topic sentence repeating more or less the thesis and second argument. Elaborate a bit and follow with a quote to prove your point. Then explain the quote as readers may have different interpretations.

**Conclusion: ± 75 words**

Restate thesis and draw a conclusion without restating arguments or proof or introducing new material.

# **Remember:**

* This is academic writing so rules apply
* It is not a book report/review so don’t tell the story
* When relating important facts necessary for your argumentation, stay in the present tense: “When Moll goes to America, she meets…)
* Titles in *italics* or “” *Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe or “Moll Flanders” by Daniel Defoe.
* No first person narration. “I think the main theme of the novel…” “It is almost certain that the main theme of the novel…”
* Carefully edit your work