

The Equation

INTRO

- When using an Equation structure, the introduction must **set the stage** for the entire story being laid out, so it could be longer than a usual introduction
- The introduction should **provide necessary background information** on the main topic—the typical reporter questions: who, what, when, where, why
- It should also **prepare the reader for the main subtopics** that will be discussed in the body of the essay and should probably **declare the main point** or thesis



A

1st Major Subtopic

- **Discuss the first major subtopic** and where/how it fits into the “equation,” as well as why it is important to understand
- **Give details** that inform the reader about the specifics of the subtopic and additional background on the main topic
- **Explain key elements** of the subtopic and **key points in the equation**—what will the reader need to follow the story?



B

2nd Major Subtopic

- **Discuss the second major subtopic** and how it fits into the “equation,” as well as why it is important to understand
- **Give details** that inform the reader about the specifics of the subtopic. How does this subtopic relate to the main point?
- **Explain key elements** of the subtopic and **key points in the equation**. How does this point relate to the prior subtopic?



C

3rd Major Subtopic

- **Discuss the third major subtopic** and how it fits into the “equation,” as well as why it is important to understand
- **Give details** that inform the reader about the specifics of the subtopic. How does this subtopic relate to the main point?
- **Explain key elements** of the subtopic and **key points in the equation**. How does this point relate to the prior subtopics?



D

Closing

- The closing in an equation should **present a conclusion**—a clear point being made about the main topic.
- It should also **briefly recap how the subtopics fit together to lead to this conclusion**
- The closing should also **discuss the implications of the main point**—who/what will it affect, what actions could be taken?