

## Paper structure/organization

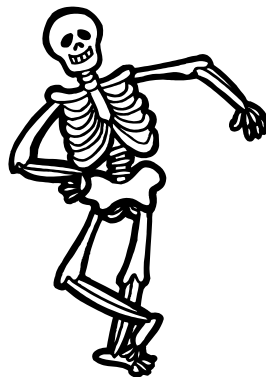
Although not all papers have all of these elements and instead focus on just some of them, the following paper structure is typical of a short or term paper. A philosophy paper has a pretty formula-like outline that typically looks something like this:

- Introduction
- Exegesis: a fancy word for “summary of the field/viewpoint that you’re engaging with”
- Argument: this is you engaging with what you’ve laid out in the exegesis. This could just be an evaluation of the exegesis.
- Objection: this should be a well thought out critique of your argument. Make it a good objection and not one that you simply brush aside! Is there anything that you’re assuming in your argument that you haven’t yet defended? Are there any negative repercussions of your argument? Thought experiments can prove particularly useful here.
- Response: engage with and evaluate your objection! How severe of a critique is it? Is it successful? How can you salvage your view?
- Your evaluation (if you’ve presented someone else’s argument above).
- Conclusion

This might seem really choppy. It kinda is. To help smooth the transition, you can typically have a sentence at the beginning of each paragraph introducing the paragraph.

E.g. “However, one could always object to this on the grounds that...”

“Yet I maintain that this objection is ultimately unsatisfying...”



**‘Cuz it’s the bare bones of your paper!**