



Examine the following table:

THEME or TOPIC SENTENCE Sentence 1 Also: STAGE 1—A general statement (Linguistics is general)	In the past ten or fifteen years a great deal of research has been carried out in the field of Linguistics.
CONCRETE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE Sentence 2 Also: STAGE 2—More information, sometimes a definition	A significant portion of this research has held as its focus the learner and how learners actually acquire or set about to acquire language.
RHEME or CONCLUDING SENTENCE Sentence 3 Also: STAGE 3—Scope and focus of the entire essay signalling what will come next	More specifically, much of the research has been concerned with learning strategies and cognitive styles and in particular with the '... identification of learning strategy preferences with a view to isolating those characteristics of the 'good language learner' (Nunan 1991:78).

This paragraph follows certain other rules because it is the *first or introductory paragraph* of the essay. It has stages. All introductions in English have stages. There are at least three stages to an introduction. Look at the stages outlined above.

Task B: Identifying paragraph requirements

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In the following three paragraphs, underline and identify:

- 1 the topic sentence;
- 2 concrete supporting sentence/s;
- 3 concluding sentence;
- 4 find stages 1, 2, and 3 if you think the paragraph is an *introduction*;
- 5 if a paragraph is not an introduction, then do not identify the three stages outlined above.

Paragraph 1

ESSAY QUESTION: Define survey research and discuss the method.

Sentence 1—the theme is *survey sampling* and it is introductory so this sentence is Stage 1, a general statement:

Survey sampling is a quantitative method of research which is a 20th century phenomenon with most of its growth since the 1930s.