

Essay Structure and Conclusions

Academic Writing Skills

In a good piece of writing the ideas and arguments in the preceding paragraphs should lead to an appropriate conclusion. The writer has the option of making a request or call to action but in any case the end should be obvious to the reader.

Jumbled Essay

The paragraphs of the text below have been put in the wrong order. Try to rearrange the text back into the right order. In doing this decide which of the paragraphs serve to:

- introduce the problem
- outline the arguments
- bring the arguments to a conclusion

The Essay



Admittedly, there have been some attempts at improvement. The new space age superloos are unisex (10 pence to all) and more hygienic as they're completely cleaned after each use. yet they have drawbacks. Often situated in highly visible spots, thus maximising self-consciousness, they also have automatic doors which you fear may either wizz open too early and expose you to the crowds, or never open at all, leaving you a prisoner. Not ideal.

Reason tells me that I can't be the only one. Other women, too, must have stood in line, cursing the fact that yet again there is only one ladies' lavatory in a crowded pub. Friendships can be formed in the time you spend waiting.

So why don't we complain more about our toilets? Perhaps it's embarrassment about raising such a 'delicate' subject in public. It's time to campaign for public conveniences to be more available, clearly signposted, regularly maintained, free and clean. Make your feelings known

by complaining to the local Cleansing department who should be in the telephone directory listed under your local council.

And I can't be the only woman who resolutely avoids public conveniences and goes out of her way to head for the department store where the ladies' will be clean, free and easy to find.

Lack of provision of ladies' loos isn't the only problem. Even if you are lucky enough to find public toilets where the council hides them, they are often so dirty and smelly that only sheer desperation could drive you to use them. The walls may be covered in graffiti, locks broken, floors wet and muddy, basins encrusted with grime. The taps (cold water only) may well be dripping into a pool of scummy water above the clogged-up plughole and you won't see anything of such luxuries as toilet paper, soap or towels. There may, ironically, be a 'hygienic' air hand dryer - and if you're lucky, it may even work. The final insult is that you will probably have to pay for the privilege of using such facilities.

If only there were more lavatory attendants like Reg Bedwell (pictured above), who looks after Covent Garden's loos. He ensures that they always have flowers, nice soap, clean towels and even music. He keeps the place spotless. What a hero!

Questions for thought

1. What lead you to put the paragraphs in that order?
2. Can you diagram the structure of the essay's argument?
3. The conclusion is not just a summary. How would you describe what is in the conclusion?