

## Revising the structure

The editor inside of us demands to know:

- How does it sound?
- Is it fluent?
- Does it move logically from one stage in the argument to another?
- Are there sections that need more development or more evidence?

### The structure of a piece of writing

- whether it is organised logically
- whether the connections between our ideas are consistently developed
- and, of course, whether we have signposted these connections so our readers can see them clearly

To check the structure and logical clarity of your review, work through the following simple steps.

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#### Revising the structure – checklist

##### 1 Consistent arguments

- *Does your review develop consistently?*
- *Are the connections between your arguments clear to anyone reading your review for the first time?*
- *Are any connections missing or obscured?*
- *Are there any irrelevant digressions that could come out?*
- *Are all your arguments relevant to your analysis in the introduction?*
- *Have you picked up and discussed all the issues you mapped out in the introduction?*

##### 2 Signposting

- *Are the connections clearly signposted?*
- *Is there a clear indication of how a paragraph connects with the previous one?*
- *Do you indicate clearly how you will be developing the argument in the paragraph?*

##### 3 Introduction and conclusion

- *Have you delivered on all the promises you made in the introduction: have you overlooked any important issues?*
- *Have you evaluated and explained the significance of your findings?*
- *Have you moved from the general to the specific throughout your review?*

##### 4 Paragraphs

The connections between paragraphs:

- *Have you picked up the map of the review that you laid out in the introduction?*
  - *Do your paragraphs follow each other logically and fluently?*
  - *Are they in the right place?*
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- *Do your paragraphs start abruptly?*
  - *Is there a better transition that would indicate more clearly the direction you want to take an argument?*
  - *Can it be moved to a more prominent position in the topic sentence?*
  - *Are any paragraphs floating without a clear rationale?*

The structure within them:

- *Is the logical structure of the argument consistent and clear from sentence to sentence?*
- *Can I delete some sentences that add nothing or make the argument confusing?*
- *Can I move the logical indicator or choose another to make the development of the argument clearer?*

## 5 Relevance



- *Are all the sources you have included relevant to the issues that are the focus of your work?*
- *Have you actually used your sources and not just reproduced them in a loose, descriptive list?*
- *Is there a coherent structure that ties all your sources together?*

For more information, see *How to Write Your Literature Review*, Chapter 27.