

14. A suggestions section

Although the main goal of your essay should be to prove your thesis statement, sometimes a suggestions section can be useful.

1. Suggestions should be for governments and industry, not individuals

In academic writing, suggestions should be made for *government* and *industry*. Giving suggestions for *individuals* is usually better suited for high school essays, not research papers.

Look at the two suggestions below. Which one is better suited for an academic essay? Check one.

- Parents should be careful about when they allow children to watch TV programs.
- The television industry should refrain from broadcasting programs with violent scenes before 10 pm.

2. Be detailed with your suggestions

Try not to be too vague with your suggestions. The more detailed your suggestions are, the more academic they will appear.

Look at the two suggestions below. Which one is better suited for an academic essay? Check one.

- The government should ensure companies give their employees at least 20 vacation days each year.
- The government should ensure companies give their employees more vacation days.

3. Use examples of what is being done elsewhere in the world

If you are writing an essay with a focus on Japan, it might be a good idea to do some research on the same topic in other countries. For example, if your thesis statement is:

The Japanese government should stop using atomic energy

In your suggestions section, it might be a good idea to examine what other countries are doing to reduce their reliance on atomic energy.

The Japanese government should follow the example of Germany, which recently...

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Language Focus - Suggestions

Expressions for Suggestions

The Japanese government should ensure...

The newspaper industry must maintain...

The Ministry of Education needs to review its policies and....

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15. Providing background information

Sometimes it is a good idea to provide some background information on the topic you are writing about. This background information can include a brief history, the current situation and the definitions of special terms. If you are writing about a topic that is specific to Japan, you can sometimes make a comparison with other countries.

Look at the examples of background sections below. One of these background sections has some unnecessary subsections. Which one? Cross it out. ✕

Thesis Statements

The Japanese government must do more to help hikikomori.

- 2.1 What is “hikikomori”?
- 2.2 The current situation of hikikomori in Japan

Japan should continue its whaling program.

- 2.1 The history of whaling in Japan
- 2.2 The current situation of whaling in Japan

Japan should abolish capital punishment.

- 2.1 A brief history of capital punishment in Japan
- 2.2 Capital punishment in Japan now
- 2.3 Capital punishment in other countries

The Japanese government should take measures to reduce global warming.

- 2.1 What is global warming?
- 2.2 The history of global warming
- 2.3 The current situation of global warming
- 2.4 Global warming in other countries

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