

---

# Article Structure Template

A working framework for long-form articles — use before and during drafting.

---

## BEFORE YOU WRITE

### Working title

---

### Central claim (one sentence — what this piece argues or delivers)

*If you cannot state this in one sentence, the piece is not ready to be written.*

---

---

### Purpose — what is this piece FOR?

*Argument / Observation / Guide / Reflection — circle one or describe.*

---

### Intended reader

*Their familiarity with the subject, what they need, how they will read it.*

---

### Word count target

---

---

## THE SKELETON — 4 TO 6 POINTS IN ORDER

*List the key moves the piece makes — not sentences, just the points. Each should do something distinct.*

1.

---

2.

---

3.

---

4.

---

5.

---

6.

---

---

#### STRUCTURE CHECKS — DURING OR AFTER DRAFTING

■ **Does the opening earn the reader's attention?**

*Not summarise. Not state the claim. Create enough pull to reach the second paragraph.*

■ **Does each section follow logically from the one before?**

*If a transition feels forced, the sections may need reordering.*

■ **Is anything present that the central claim doesn't need?**

*Cut it. Even if it is good. Especially if it is good.*

■ **Does the ending arrive before you are finished?**

*The piece ends when the work is done — not when you run out of things to say.*

---