## エッセイの構成

英文 Essay (米では paper) は次の構成要素から成り立っています。まずはエッセイの構成をしっかり理解して下さい。長い論文でも Short Essay でも基本的に構成は同じです。

## エッセイの構成(例)

Title (タイトル)
Introductory Paragraph

エッセイの内容を的確に表す エッセイ全体の概要を述べ、最後に論題について 述べた部分(thesis statement)を置きます。 いくつかのパラグラフから構成されます。

Body (本体)

1. paragraph A:

話題文 (Topic Sentence = TS)

支援する文 (Supporting Sentence = SS)

結論の文 (Concluding Sentence = CS、話題を繰り返す場合も多い。)

2. paragraph B:

Conclusion (結論)

thesis について結論を述べます。

**練習問題** 次のサンプル・エッセイ内の、 各パラグラフの変わり目を示す" transition signal" の部分を囲み、 トピックセンテンス (topic sentence)に下線を引きなさい。(但し、Introductory Paragraph は、thesis statement 部分に下線を引きなさい。)

## The Right to Die

A difficult problem that is facing society is the legalization of euthanasia, another word for mercy killing. Euthanasia is a method of causing death painlessly to end suffering. People who are in a coma because of accidents and elderly people who are terminally ill because of incurable diseases are being kept alive by artificial means. They do not have a chance to recover, but American laws do not allow doctors to end their lives. However, in my opinion, euthanasia should be legalized for several reasons.

The first and most important reason to support euthanasia is that these patients have no chance of recovery. They can never lead normal lives and must be kept alive by life-support machines such as respirators to help them breathe and feeding tubes to provide them with nutrition. They are clearly more dead than alive and will never be able to live a normal life. For example, after Samuel, an infant, had swallowed a balloon, he stopped breathing. The balloon was removed, but the lack of oxygen had caused brain damage and left him in an irreversible coma. Samuel was unable to breathe without the aid of a respirator, and there was no hope for his recovery.

Another reason to support mercy killing is that medical coasts are very high. Today the cost of a hospital room can be as much as \$1,450 per day for basic care, which does not include the cost of specialized care or the use of special equipment. The high cost of medical care can cause financial problems for the family. For example, Charles Adkin's eighty-two-year-old wife lived in a nursing home in a coma for four years. Since there was no chance for her recovery, Mr. Adkins requested that the medical staff withold treatment. However, his pleas were ignored. Soon after she died, Mr. Adkins was billed \$250,000 for his wife's medical care. The courts ordered him to pay the bill, which must have placed a terrible financial burden on him.

The final reason to support the legalization of euthanasia is that the family suffers. The nurses and other hospital staff can give the terminally ill patient only minimum care. Thus, the family must spend time to care for the special needs of their loved one. For instance, Nancy Cruzan was kept alive on life-support machines for eight years. She would never recover from her vegetative state. However, during those years, her loving, caring parents visited her regularly.

In the end, because terminally ill patients have no chance to recover and to live normal lives, they should be allowed to die with dignity. Therefore, the family should have the right to ask doctors to turn off the life-support machines or to stop further medical treatment. To prolong life artificially when there is no hope for the future is a tragedy both for the patients and for their loved ones.

(from Introduction to Academic Writing, Second Edition, pp.170-171)

Notes: legalization 合法化 < legal 合法的な、 euthanasia 安楽死、 patients 患者、 respirator 人工呼吸装置、 nutrition 栄養、 swallow 飲み込む、 balloon 風船、 coma 昏睡状態 irreversible 元には戻らない、 a nursing home 老人ホーム、 入院可能な病院、 withhold 差し控える、 be billed 請求される、 life-support machines 生命維持装置、 vegetative state 植物状態 terminally ill patients 末期症状の患者、 prolong 延命する