

# THE BONES OF A GOOD ESSAY



## START WITH A SOLID BASE

Just like strong bones make a strong body, strong writing begins with a sturdy foundation. Ask yourself: What's my thesis? What should I say? How should I say it? Who is my audience? Can I support my subject with strong, clear facts and details? Remember, the stronger the bones, the stronger the essay.

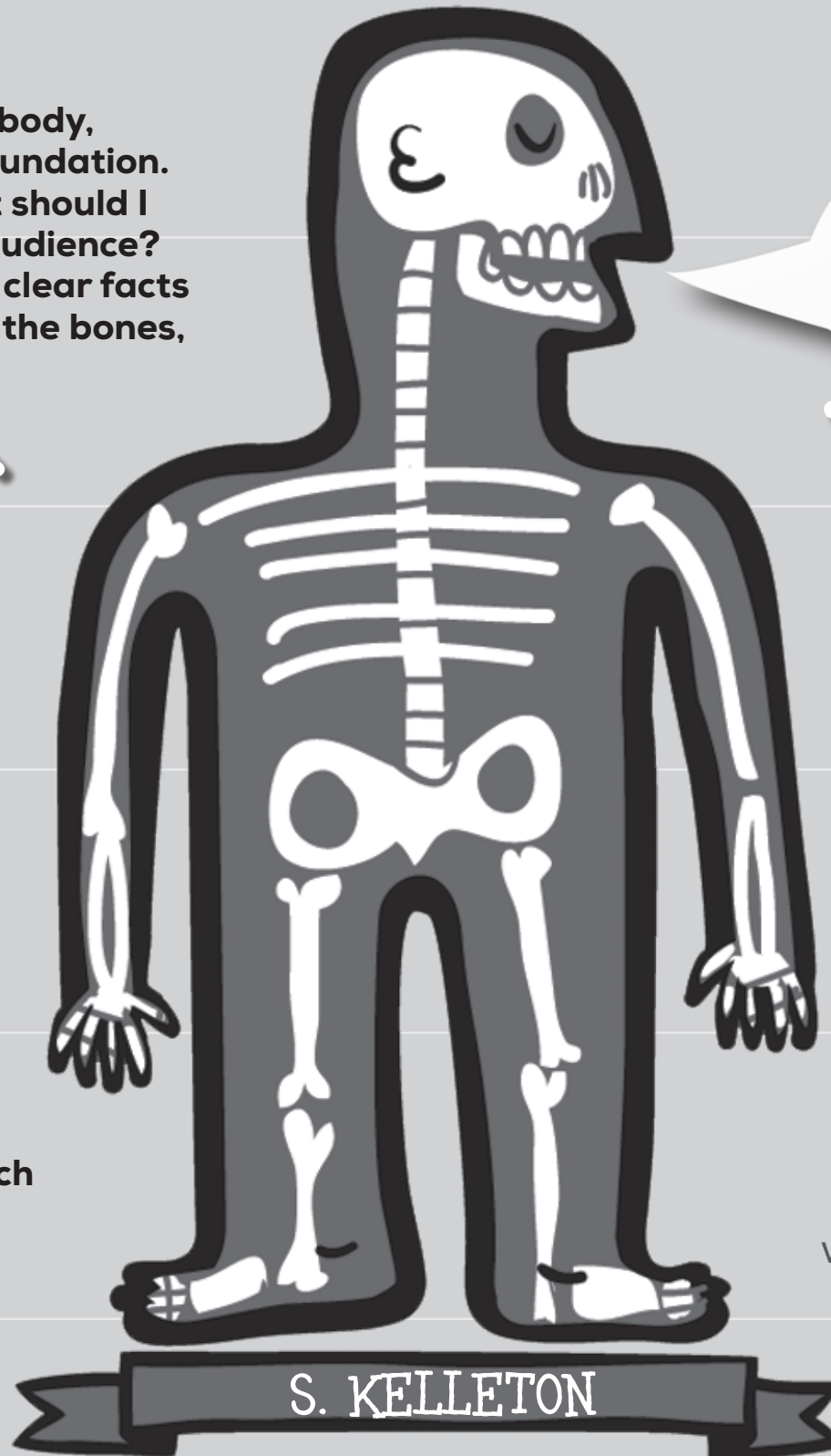
## OUTLINE YOUR BODY

An outline helps you connect and organize your main points. Make sure you have an introduction, body and conclusion. Are your thoughts organized in the correct order? Are your ideas supported with examples, facts and evidence from sources? The good news is that hard work on your outline makes writing much easier!



## STRENGTHEN YOUR BONES

Start writing! Are you adding specific details to make your writing come alive? Are you writing to *express* rather than *impress*? Are you using words your readers can picture—such as “bony,” “skeletal,” “ghostly” and “spooky”? Are you checking to make sure your essay is meeting your purpose for writing?



Trick 'n Treat!  
5 tricks that can make writing a treat!



## COOL YOUR CRANIUM

It's time to take a break and let your work sit for a while—even if it's just for a short time. Come back to your essay with fresh eyes so you can try to make it even better!



## CHECK IT FROM HEAD TO TOE

Writing experts believe 90 percent of writing is revising and editing. First, revise your essay by Adding, Removing, Moving and/or Substituting (ARMS) text. Then, edit by checking for proper Capitalization, Usage (verbs and nouns), Punctuation and Spelling (CUPS). Even small changes can make big improvements to your essay.

— Here's a cool trick! —

When you were born, your skeleton had around 300 bones. By the time you become an adult, some bones will fuse together and you'll end up with 206 bones.

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