

Mastering the

5-Paragraph Essay



5 PARAGRAPH ESSAY OUTLINE TEMPLATE

INTRODUCTION

- Hook Statement
- Background Information
- Thesis Statement

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

- Topic Sentence
- Claim
- Evidence
- Concluding Statement

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

- Topic Sentence 2
- Claim #2
- Evidence
- Concluding Statement

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

- Topic Sentence 3
- Claim #3
- Evidence
- Concluding statement

CONCLUSION

- Restatement of Thesis
- Summarization of Main Points
- Overall Concluding Statement

Key Points:

- The 5-paragraph essay includes:
 - 1 introductory paragraph
 - 3 body paragraphs
 - 1 concluding paragraph.
- Each body paragraph serves a specific purpose.
- The format for all 3 body paragraphs is the same.
- Typical 5 paragraph essays are up to 500 words long.
- One of the most challenging assignments is the one written for a standardized test, as there are various types of essays and a limitation on time.
- Writing an essay outline helps structure your thoughts and saves you time.

READ EXAMPLES OF 5-PARAGRAPH ESSAYS!

Types of 5 Paragraph Essays

5-8 sentences per paragraph. 25-40 sentences total.

The various types of essays include:

- **Expository** — adds a personal interpretation of the term or phrase, along with the official one paraphrased from the dictionary.
 - Expository (Definition), which is used to explain a certain term or issue to the audience;
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- **Descriptive** — adds as many details as possible to illustrate the research problem.
- **Narrative** — tells a story with vivid examples.
 - Narrative. You need to describe an event, a person or a certain matter in a bright and vivid language;
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- **Argumentative & persuasive** — the difference between these academic projects is that the writer only has to mention and explain his or her personal position towards the analyzed problem in an argumentative essay. While in a persuasive essay, it is also important to defend your position and convince readers of your truth.
 - Argumentative. You need to provide arguments and evidence on a given topic;
 - Persuasive. Your main goal is to persuade the reader to accept your point of view;
 -
- **Compare & contrast** — shows the differences & similarities between several subjects.
 - Compare and contrast. With its help you find similarities and differences of two or more analyzed issues;
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- **Cause & effect** — explains the reasons for something to happen and the consequences of these actions.
 - Cause and effect. Your aim is to explain what caused a certain matter or event and what consequences it may have.
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- **Literary analysis** — picks the specific literary text like a poem or essay and evaluates/criticizes it.

The five-paragraph essay has three basic parts: **introduction, body, and conclusion.**

The **introduction** is the first paragraph of the essay, and it serves several purposes. This paragraph gets your reader's attention, develops the basic ideas of what you will cover, and provides the thesis statement for the essay. The thesis statement is usually only one sentence and is made up of the topic, focus, and three main points of the essay.

Each **body** paragraph should start with a **transition** — either a word or phrase, like *First*, or *Another important point is*. Then, the first sentence should continue with your topic sentence. The topic sentence tells your reader what the paragraph is about, like a smaller-level thesis statement. The rest of the paragraph will be made of supporting sentences. These sentences, at least four of them, will explain your topic sentence to your reader.

Be sure that each sentence in the paragraph directly addresses both your topic sentence and your thesis statement. If you have a point to make that is not directly connected to the topic sentence, it does not belong in the paragraph. You might write a different paragraph on that other point, but you may not stick it into any old paragraph just because you thought of it at that point. (You can't stick a red towel into a load of white laundry without causing damage to the rest of the clothes, and you can't stick a point that's off-topic into a paragraph without doing damage to the rest of the essay. Keep your laundry and your paragraph points separate!)

The **conclusion** is the last paragraph of the essay. This paragraph brings the essay to a close, reminds the reader of the basic ideas from the essay, and restates the thesis statement. The conclusion should not contain new ideas, as it is the summation of the content of the essay. The restatement of the thesis is a simpler form than the one originally presented in the introduction.

Introduction: 3-5 Sentences

So, let's look at how to write an introduction paragraph for an essay. To start out impressively, think about a hook. A hook is a 1-2 sentence bang that makes the reader want to keep on reading the entire text. It can be a rhetorical question, literary quote, joke, anecdote, metaphor, simile, a famous person saying, fact, or statistic. It is essential to check the credibility of the information you use.

The introductory paragraph should also include the thesis statement, a kind of mini-outline for the paper: it tells the reader what the essay is about. The last sentence of this paragraph must also contain a transitional "hook" which moves the reader to the first paragraph of the body of the paper.

- The introduction sets the structure for the rest of the essay, with the first sentence being the hook sentence.
- The hook sentence is kind of like the spark to a flame. It grabs the reader's attention.
- The hook is usually either a rhetorical question, some life example, or a stunning fact.

Brief Introduction of Supporting Arguments (1-3)

Here you are taking your supporting arguments and briefly introducing them to the reader, without revealing too much information.

Thesis Statement

The Thesis Statement is an essential part of your entire essay: this is your argument. This statement will be the basis for the rest of your essay.

Does the introduction give a broad context of the subject being discussed?

Is the subject matter clear?

How could you improve the hook?

What made (or didn't make) the thesis statement effective?

What information is missing that would help the reader better understand what the paper is about.

Body Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 (5-7 Sentences)

Let's figure out how to start a body paragraph. Even though all body paragraphs are equally vital, keep in mind that the opening paragraph should be the strongest one; it may include the most potent argument. The writer should come up with the most vivid example, the smartest illustration, and an obvious starting point — the topic sentence. Do not forget to add a “reverse hook” sentence. Each argument of the body must relate to the thesis. Here are some other facts about the body:

- This is the “meat” of your 5-paragraph essay, where you explain the position, you are defending. In other words, it must relate to your thesis sentence.
- The structure of a body paragraph is usually: Intro sentence (1), Supporting Argument Explanation (3-5), Concluding Sentence (1)
- The intro sentence should briefly bring about your argument, without revealing too much information
- What about the Supporting Argument and Explanation? Here is an example of taking the topic and going into detail, while still, most importantly, defending your thesis.
- The Concluding Sentence should be the opposite of the intro. Instead of introducing your argument, you are briefly concluding your argument, and transitioning into your next one.

Body — First paragraph:

The first paragraph of the body should contain the strongest argument, most significant example, cleverest illustration, or an obvious beginning point. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the "reverse hook" which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the introductory paragraph. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional hook to tie into the second paragraph of the body.

Body — Second paragraph:

The second paragraph of the body should contain the second strongest argument, second most significant example, second cleverest illustration, or an obvious follow up the first paragraph in the body. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the reverse hook which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the first paragraph of the body. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional hook to tie into the third paragraph of the body.

Body — Third paragraph:

The third paragraph of the body should contain the weakest argument, weakest example, weakest illustration, or an obvious follow up to the second paragraph in the body. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the reverse hook which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the second paragraph. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional concluding hook that signals the reader that this is the final major point being made in this paper. This hook also leads into the last, or concluding, paragraph.

The format for all 3 body paragraphs is the same.

The arguments should go in this order:

1. The 1st body paragraph should be your strongest argument.
2. The 2nd body should be your weakest argument.
3. The 3rd body should be your most persuasive argument.

What information is used to prove the thesis statement?

Was this enough information to prove the point? Why or why not?

Were the examples effective in explaining why the information was used?

Are there specific quotes from the novel where appropriate?

Were page numbers given?

Conclusion (3-5 Sentences): The “Mirror” of Your Intro

The last paragraph of your paper must contain these elements:

- An allusion to what was said in the opening part.
- A rewritten thesis statement, using your own new, original language and interpretation — do not merely copy-paste the thesis.
- A summary of the three major points from the paper’s body.
- A closing statement that alarms the reader that the discussion is about to be over.

Look at the detailed descriptions of the recommended steps in order to craft a good conclusion paragraph.

Restate Your Thesis (Sentence 1)

Take your main argument (thesis) and restate it conclusively. Paraphrasing it assertively. Show that you have “proved your point.”

Conclude your supporting arguments (1-3 Sentences)

Take your supporting arguments (your body paragraphs) and rephrase the main points you made in one sentence per paragraph. What if some of the supporting arguments are similar? – Combine them into one sentence to keep a proper structure.

Concluding Hook Sentence (Optional)

An excellent way to end an essay is to do something unexpected, to surprise the reader. Create a second hook. This time, it should be a hook that sums things up in a few words— rhetorical questions are great for this.

This gives the 5 paragraph essay some spice at the end and makes the reader question your statement.

Concluding paragraph:

This paragraph should include the following:

1. an allusion to the pattern used in the introductory paragraph,
2. a restatement of the thesis statement, using some of the original language or language that "echoes" the original language. (The restatement, however, must not be a duplicate thesis statement.)
3. a summary of the three main points from the body of the paper.
4. a final statement that gives the reader signals that the discussion has come to an end. (This final statement may be a "call to action" in an persuasive paper.)

Wrap up the information. No new information given.

Are your final points effective?

Does the paper feel finished?

5-PARAGRAPH OUTLINE LAYOUT

INTRODUCTION

Does the introduction give a broad context of the subject being discussed?

Is the subject matter clear? IS there a hook?

What made (or didn't make) the thesis statement effective?

What information is missing that would help the reader better understand what the paper is about.

BODY PARAGRAPHS

What information is used to prove the thesis statement?

Was this enough information to prove the point?

Were the examples effective in explaining why the information was used?

Are there specific quotes from the source where appropriate?

Is it interesting? Did you use descriptive adjectives, adverbs, phrases, etc?

Were page numbers given? (If appropriate)

CONCLUSION

Wrap up the information.

No new information given.

Are your final points effective?

Does the paper feel finished?

- I. Topic / Introduction
 - a. Hook Statement
 - b. Supporting Sentences
 - c. Thesis Statement

- II. Paragraph 1
 - a. Topic
 - b. Claim
 - c. Evidence
 - d. Conclusion

- III. Paragraph 2
 - a. Topic
 - b. Claim
 - c. Evidence
 - d. Conclusion

- IV. Paragraph 3
 - a. Topic
 - b. Claim
 - c. Evidence
 - d. Conclusion

- V. Conclusion
 - a. Restate thesis
 - b. Summarize main points
 - c. Overall conclusion

ORGANIZING AN OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION

- II. Topic A
 - a. Supporting idea 1
 - i. Further supporting (optional)
 - 1. You could have even more details here
 - 2. You could have even more details here
 - 3.
 - ii. Further supporting (optional)
 - b. Supporting idea 2
 - c. Supporting idea 3

- III. Topic B
 - a. Supporting idea 1
 - b. Supporting idea 2
 - c. Supporting idea 3

- IV. Topic C
 - a. Supporting idea 1
 - b. Supporting idea 2
 - c. Supporting idea 3

- V. CONCLUSION

Grading Rubric

Several schools and universities worldwide use several different types of rubrics, but one of the most standard rubric styles is the 5-point style. This style is broken down into five segments: Focus, Organization, Conventions, Style, and Content.

- **Focus:** Did the writer spend his time proving his or her thesis? Did they accomplish their goal?
- **Organization:** Was the essay readable, were the transitions between paragraphs smooth, and did the writer follow the proper outline format and not diverge from the set structure?
- **Conventions:** Did the writer make many grammatical mistakes? Did they have run-on sentences?
- **Style:** Did the writer use high-level vocabulary, were words rarely repeated, how original were his or her sentence structures?
- **Content:** Did the writer adequately prove his argument and were his or her statements logical, reliable, and factual?

SOURCES.

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<https://www.jsc.edu/academics/programs/writing-center/writing-resources/five-paragraph-essay.html>

http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/five_par.htm