



## Five-Paragraph Essay

### Paragraph #1 (Introduction):

- present the subject
- state the main idea
- create interest for the reader.
- end with the thesis statement (containing 3 points)

### Paragraph #2 (Body):

- focus only on the **first point** of the thesis statement

### Paragraph #3 (Body):

- focus only on the **second point** of the thesis statement

### Paragraph #4 (Body):

- focus only on the **third point** of the thesis statement

### Paragraph #5 (Conclusion):

- make the essay complete
- re-emphasize the main points
- restate the thesis
- do NOT introduce new information; instead, give the reader a sense of completion

### **Organization of Body Paragraphs:**

Generally, begin with your second strongest point, move into your weakest, and end with your strongest. You may want to adjust your thesis to fit this organization scheme.

If you are working on a five-paragraph research paper (as for an English course), here is a general outline for you to follow:

#### I. Intro

- A. Introduce author and piece
- B. Thesis--including 3 specific points

#### II. First body paragraph

- A. Topic sentence that relates directly to first point in thesis
- B. First point that supports topic sentence
  - a. Quotation to support
  - b. Explanation of how quotation supports
- C. Second point that supports topic sentence
  - a. Quotation to support

#### D. Concluding sentence

#### II. Second body paragraph

- A. Topic sentence that specifically relates to second point in thesis

- B. First point to support topic sentence
    - a. Quotation
    - b. Explanation of how quotation supports
  - C. Second point to support topic sentence
    - a. Quotation
    - b. Explanation of how quotation supports
  - D. Concluding sentence
- IV. Third body paragraph (same as those above)
- V. Conclusion (wrap up ideas here, but use new words)

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