

The Five-Paragraph Academic Essay

Introductory paragraph: prepares reader for thesis statement

- Anecdote, story, or personal experience
 - Factual summary
 - Description or definition
 - Appropriate quotation
 - Startling fact or statistic

Thesis statement = Topic + Focus: states main idea of essay

Body paragraph #1: provides support for thesis

Topic sentence: states main idea of paragraph

Supporting details

- Facts and statistics
- Personal knowledge and experience
 - Expert testimony

Body paragraph #2: provides support for thesis

Topic sentence: states main idea of paragraph

Supporting details

- Facts and statistics
- Personal knowledge and experience
 - Expert testimony

Body paragraph #3: provides support for thesis

Topic sentence: states main idea of paragraph

Supporting details

- Facts and statistics
- Personal knowledge and experience
 - Expert testimony

Concluding paragraph: gives the essay a feeling of completion

- Restates thesis and major points
- Makes predictions or speculations
 - Calls readers to action