

5-Paragraph Essay Outline

Introductory Paragraph

Thesis

[Included in the Introduction and generally at the end of the paragraph]

Body Paragraph

1

Body Paragraph

2

Body Paragraph

3

Concluding Paragraph

The Basic Five Paragraph Essay

Essay About Public Speaking

Introduction—begins broad:

"There is something that everyone fears..."

Thesis statement: "There are three key steps to preparing for a public speech: writing a clear speech, practicing it, and performing it well."

1. Writing a clear speech

2. Practicing it

3. Performing it well

Conclusion—restate thesis in a new way:

"Even though we all fear public speaking, following these three steps will make it easier."

Take the idea back to broad: "We should not fear something that we can control."

Introduction—begins broad; narrows down to a specific, focused topic often stated in thesis.

Thesis statement usually towards the end of the introductory paragraph.

Three (3) body paragraphs that support or explain the thesis.

Each paragraph has a topic sentence.

Remember to use transitions between paragraphs.

Concluding paragraph takes the main idea back to broad (as in the Introduction), restating the thesis statement for emphasis.

Introduction: Grabs the reader's attention. Introduces basic ideas that will be covered. Includes the thesis statement for the essay.

Thesis statement: usually one sentence and includes the topic, focus, and three points of the essay.

Body: Three (3) or more paragraphs that are based on the thesis statement. Each paragraph should include a transition (word or phrase); e.g. "First," "Next," "Another point is," etc. Then, the first sentence should continue with the topic sentence. The topic sentence tells the reader what the paragraph is about. The rest of the paragraph includes sentences that support, with details, the topic sentence. Each paragraph should include at least four (4) sentences.

Each sentence in the paragraph should address both the topic sentence and thesis statement. Topic sentences and supporting details should follow the order presented in the thesis statement. Using transitions from point to point will provide fluidity and cohesiveness.

Conclusion: Final paragraph that brings the essay to a close, reminds the reader of the basic ideas, and restates the thesis statement. The conclusion should provide the reader with "something to walk away with."