

# The Five-Paragraph Essay

## Essay

### Writing Sample

Students are required to write an essay responding to one of two topics. You should express your thoughts clearly and organize your ideas so that they will make sense to a reader. Your essay should be well developed with many specific details. Correct grammar and sentence structure are important. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic.

### Introduction:

#### Introductory Paragraph

Begin the first paragraph of your essay with a topic sentence that expresses the main point of your essay, the thesis statement, a kind of mini-outline for the essay; it tells the reader what the essay is about. For the second sentence write a subordinate sentence about one of the main points supporting the topic sentence of the essay. The third sentence write a second subordinate sentence about another main point supporting the topic sentence of the essay. Finish the first paragraph with a concluding or summary sentence. It must also contain a transitional “hook” which moves the reader to the first paragraph of the body of the essay.

### Body:

#### 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 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 paragraph of the body. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis state 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 the essay. This hook also leads in to the last, or concluding, paragraph.

## Conclusion:

### Concluding Paragraph

Finish the essay with a summary paragraph that covers all main topic points.

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 essay.
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 essay.)