

A Brief Guide to 5-Paragraph Essay Writing

Structure

1. Introduction
2. Body
 - a. Support/example #1
 - b. Support/example #2
 - c. Support/example #3
3. Conclusion

Main components description

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Provides the thesis statement✓ Introduces the basic ideas of the essay✓ The best way to grab a reader's attention is to start it with a curious quote, short anecdote, challenging question etc.
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Consists of 3 supporting paragraphs✓ Each body paragraph focuses on a single point, idea, reason and example to support the thesis statement✓ The first sentence of the paragraph continues with your topic sentence✓ The topic sentence explains what the paragraph is about✓ The remainder of the paragraph is made up of supporting sentences (at least 4 to a paragraph) addressing both the topic sentence and the thesis statement✓ Use appropriate details and examples to convey clear and convincing ideas
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The summarizing part of all 5-paragraph essays✓ Takes the reader back to the basic ideas and restates the thesis statement in an original way✓ Summarizes the argument under discussion and convincingly presents the author's position✓ Should be strong and powerful – it's the last thought you leave the reader with

Useful tips for awesome essays

- ✓ Use active voice instead of passive whenever possible.
- ✓ Vary your writing: use different sentence structures, avoid repetition, employ a diverse vocabulary.
- ✓ Don't use abbreviations and contractions.
- ✓ Avoid using casual language (it's better not to begin sentences with "sure", "well", "yes" or "no").
- ✓ Don't use slang (there's a big difference between academic writing and a message to your friend).
- ✓ Try not to begin your sentences with "There is/are..."
- ✓ Don't begin sentences with conjunctions ("and", "but", "for", "yet", "so", "or", "nor").
- ✓ Replace phrases like "a lot", "lots" and "lots of" with "many", "most", "much" and "often".
- ✓ Avoid using exclamation points; stay more or less neutral in your writing.
- ✓ Check your writing for spelling and grammar mistakes.

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- ✓ Make sure your ideas flow logically.
- ✓ Avoid too much detail or wordiness.
- ✓ Be concise, specific and brief, but do give details and examples.

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