

Basic Five Paragraph Essay Format

Paragraph	Content	
Introduction	Sentence 1	<u>Hook</u> - One sentence designed to grab your reader's attention (quote, question, thought-provoking statement, anecdote, interesting fact, etc).
	Sentence 2-3	<u>Background Information</u> - Connect your general hook to your specific topic. What basic information should your reader know about your topic in order to understand your essay?
	Sentence 4-5	<u>Thesis</u> - One to two sentences identifying your topic, claim, and specific arguments you intend to make.
Body #1 through Body #3	Sentence 1	<u>Topic Sentence</u> : One sentence identifying what your paragraph is going to be about. This sentence should use transitions such as, first, second, third, last, also, additionally, etc.
	Sentence 2-6	<u>Details</u> : Use these sentences to prove your point using specific details from the text. The more specific you can make it, the better. Use quotes, page numbers or examples from text.
	Sentences 7-8	<u>Paragraph Summary/Transition</u> - Briefly wrap up your paragraph by putting your final thoughts on the topic at hand. Basically in your own words, what overall idea or statement do the details you supplied create? How might this topic lead into the next idea?
Conclusion	Sentence 1	<u>Wrap-Up Statement</u> : This is a one sentence overview of your topic. What is the overall point/argument/idea of your essay? You can use your original thesis to create this sentence.
	Sentence 2-3	<u>Recap Specific Ideas</u> : Use these sentences to summarize your main points from your body paragraphs. Never word your points the exact same way. Add variety by restating the ideas using new words. At no point should you introduce new ideas in your conclusion.
	Sentence 4-5	<u>Lasting Impression</u> - One to two sentences leaving your reader with a memorable idea, thought or call to action. It is clear from these sentences that your essay is done.