

The essays that we will write in this class will be your classic Five Paragraph Essay. This is a form of essay that is great for writers. As you move on to higher levels of writing, you will still be able to use this easy template when writing essays. You will just need to step up your analysis sections as you go through the grades. This briefly goes over each paragraph included in this type of writing.

- Introduction
- Body Paragraph 1
- Body Paragraph 2
- Body Paragraph 3
- Conclusion

The Introduction

- You should begin your essay with some sort of “grabber” to grab the attention of your reader. You need to make them want to read your paper. You might do this by starting with an unusual or cool fact about your topic. You might consider using a quote or question relating to your topic to begin. The introduction should start out a bit generic and then get very detailed in the end. You can hint at your topics, but you don’t want to give them away until you get to your thesis. The last sentence of your first paragraph should be your thesis statement. This statement should have three points to it in one complete sentence. These three points will be the topic of discussion in each one of your body paragraphs. If you are more experience in writing, you won’t necessarily have to state your three topics in the thesis. Those topics will be evident as one would read your body paragraphs.

Body Paragraph 1, 2 & 3

- Your body paragraphs will be focused on your three points of your thesis statement. Each body paragraph will talk about one point. You will start off with a topic sentence about your point that you are trying to make. Then you will bring in examples to prove the point that you are making. You will get examples from the text, novels, or movies that we read/view in class. You must use details and

specific examples to prove that you know what you are talking about.

The Conclusion

- Your conclusion should begin with a restatement of your thesis. Notice that I did not say a repeat of your thesis. You need to paraphrase your thesis. Then you need to add some sentences that stress the importance of your view. The conclusion is what the reader is going to read last, so think about what idea or feeling you want them to be thinking about when they get done with your paper. The conclusion is the exact opposite of your introduction. It should start out specific with the restatement of your thesis and then end a bit generic.

The Transitions

- Transitions are sentences that we use to go from one paragraph to the other. We can't just start talking about a new topic without guiding the reading from one to another, and that is where transitions can help us. We can use transitions at the end of one paragraph and/or the beginning of the next paragraph. We need to use transitions to show the connections between all of your points, so the reader does not get confused.
- To show the relationship between your topics, think about when you compare and contrast ideas. You can put these in the last sentence of your body paragraphs or work them into the first topic sentence of the next paragraph. So think about phrases that we use to compare and contrast.
 - Does the first paragraph tell us a pro and the second a con? ("on the other hand . . .")
 - Does the second paragraph tell us something of greater significance? ("more importantly . . .")
 - An earlier historical example? ("even before [topic of paragraph 1], [topic of paragraph 2]")

- A different kind of consideration? (money versus time for example).
- You will have to think about your topics until you find the best type of connection between the two in order to choose the best transition phrase. If you need more examples, click [here](#) to see more suggestions for transition words.
- A transition will also be needed to go from your last body paragraph into your conclusion. You can hint to the reader that you are about ready to conclude by referring to a previous detail, example, or character that you had stated before. You do not want to totally restate something since that should be in the conclusion, but you can kind of send a signal that you are getting ready to wrap up your essay.

Just Some Odds and Ends

- Appearance:
 - For this class, all of your papers must be written in MLA format. We will go over this type of format, but you can always refresh your memory because the template is on my website under Resources.
 - NEVER write these phrases in your essay.
 - I will be talking about
 - This paper is about
 - The end
 - I think