

The Five-Paragraph Academic Essay

Introductory paragraph: prepares reader for thesis statement

Anecdote, story, or personal experience
Factual summary
Description or definition
Appropriate quotation
Startling fact or statistic

Thesis statement = Topic + Focus: states main idea of essay

Body paragraph #1: provides support for thesis

Topic sentence: states main idea of paragraph

Supporting details

Facts and statistics
Personal knowledge and experience
Expert testimony

Body paragraph #2: provides support for thesis

Topic sentence: states main idea of paragraph

Supporting details

Facts and statistics
Personal knowledge and experience
Expert testimony

Body paragraph #3: provides support for thesis

Topic sentence: states main idea of paragraph

Supporting details

Facts and statistics
Personal knowledge and experience
Expert testimony

Concluding paragraph: gives the essay a feeling of completion

Restates thesis and major points
Makes predictions or speculations
Calls readers to action