

# Guideline for writing a standard 5-paragraph essay

## Title

Relevant, yet eye-catching. Do not allow title to substitute for your thesis.

## Introduction

1. Select interest-catching introductory technique. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Thesis \_\_\_\_\_

## Body Paragraphs

### Transition to paragraph ➡

1. Topic Sentence (1st point or aspect of thesis) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Discuss one point about topic sentence.
3. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #2 sentence.
4. Discuss a second point about topic sentence.
5. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #4 sentence.
6. Discuss a third point about the topic sentence.
7. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #6 sentence.
8. A clincher sentence or a sentence of summary. The purpose of this sentence is to clearly state the significance or meaning of this paragraph.

### Transition to paragraph ➡

1. Topic Sentence (2nd point or aspect of thesis) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Discuss one point about topic sentence.
3. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #2 sentence.
4. Discuss a second point about topic sentence.
5. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #4 sentence.
6. Discuss a third point about the topic sentence.
7. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #6 sentence.
8. A clincher sentence or a sentence of summary. The purpose of this sentence is to clearly state the significance or meaning of this paragraph.

### Transition to paragraph ➡

1. Topic Sentence (3rd point or aspect of thesis) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Discuss one point about topic sentence.
3. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #2 sentence.
4. Discuss a second point about topic sentence.
5. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #4 sentence.
6. Discuss a third point about the topic sentence.
7. Give a sentence or two of explanation or illustration about #6 sentence.
8. A clincher sentence or a sentence of summary. The purpose of this sentence is to clearly state the significance or meaning of this paragraph.

## Conclusion

### Transition to paragraph ➡

1. Restate thesis in different words or summarize major points to reach a logical conclusion.
2. Examine the implications or consequences of the problem or topic you have presented. As part of this examination, you may analyze these implications, stating your personal position (in the third person, of course). Or you may discuss future options, consequences of failing to act, etc.; whatever is appropriate for your topic.