

CREATING A FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY FROM AN OUTLINE**PART A: Building On A Proper Framework**

Once you have a good essay outline created, the final step in the creation of your expository essay is to develop complete, well-written, interesting paragraphs. Instead of the point form used in your outline, you write using complete sentences.

Remember: A basic five paragraph essay has an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. The *introductory paragraph* in an expository essay doesn't have to be very long. After reading your introductory paragraph, the reader should have a good idea of what your essay will be about. It contains the *topic sentence*, which states your *thesis* or the point you are going to make, and briefly introduces your main ideas in support of the thesis, without going into a lot of detail. If a main point is not mentioned in the introductory paragraph, then it shouldn't appear in the body of the essay. By the same token, every main point that is mentioned should also appear in the body of the essay. Ideally, the introductory paragraph is also written in an engaging way to capture your reader's interest and encourage further reading.

A basic five paragraph essay has three *body paragraphs* which allow you to develop three main ideas or arguments in support of your point of view. Each one is constructed like a proper paragraph, with a topic sentence, and detail sentences in support of your argument. These paragraphs tend to be much longer than the introductory paragraph. In the best writing, each paragraph contains a transition sentence which leads the reader to the next paragraph. Body paragraphs are often developed to compare/contrast two things. You tell how the two things are similar, and how they are different. Cause/effect paragraphs show how the point you are making is the result of the actions you describe. Another way to develop body paragraphs is by example/illustration. In this method you put forth the example and use the illustrations to show how your example supports your thesis.

The final paragraph in a five paragraph essay is the *concluding paragraph*. This paragraph is where you summarize the arguments or points you have made, restate your thesis, and draw a final conclusion. It should be written in such a way as to convince the reader that your point of view is correct.

PART B: Assignment

Using one of the essay outlines you created in Unit 5 as a starting point, finish writing a proper essay. Attach the next page to your work, then hand it in for feedback from your teacher.

Name:

Date:

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DIRECTIONS: Write a properly constructed five paragraph essay using one of the essay outlines you created for Unit 5. You may also negotiate a different topic with your teacher, but if you do, you will have to create an outline first. Your essay will be marked according to the checklist below. Be sure to attach this page to your essay before you hand it for feedback from your teacher.

ESSAY MARKING CHECKLIST**Opening Paragraph (4 marks each)**

- 1. Did I write my thesis as a complete sentence?
- 2. Did my thesis make my opinion clear?
- 3. Did my opening paragraph catch my reader's attention and encourage further reading?

Essay Body (6 marks each)

- 4. Did I support my thesis with three or more points or arguments?
- 5. Did I write a complete topic sentence for each paragraph?
- 6. Did each paragraph in the body of my essay present one main idea to support my thesis?
- 7. Did I show clearly how all of my ideas relate to one another and to my thesis?

Concluding paragraph (4 marks)

- 8. Did I restate my thesis in a strong concluding paragraph?

Overall (2 marks each)

- 9. Did I put the paragraphs in the best possible order? One that makes sense?
- 10. Did I have all the information I need to support my points or arguments?
- 11. Did I document my sources using footnotes or endnotes if applicable?
- 12. Did I credit my sources with a proper bibliography if applicable?
- 13. Did I write this entirely in my own words, not plagiarizing someone else's work?

TEACHER'S COMMENTS: