

HOW DO I ORGANIZE MY PAPER?

A step-by-step guide to writing a five-paragraph essay



Five Paragraphs

- Introduction paragraph
- Body paragraph #1
- Body paragraph #2
- Body paragraph #3
- Conclusion

Introduction Paragraph

Your introduction paragraph needs to have three major things in it.

1. **HOOK**- The hook is a GREAT starting sentence that will pull the reader in and make them want to read your paper!
 - **Ask a question**
 - **Give a fact or statistic**
 - **Use a quote**
 - **Retell a short story**
 - **Shocking or interesting statement**

Introduction Paragraph

2. Bridge

- Connect the hook to the thesis by identifying the topic or prompt.

3. Thesis Statement

- Tell the reader what the paper is about.
- Identify the main topic of the paper.

Body Paragraph #1

1. Topic Sentence

- Tells the reader what this paragraph is about
- Must refer back to your **thesis statement**

2. Example

- Give an example that supports the topic sentence. (You may give more than 1 example!)

3. Explanation

- Explain the example (must explain each example)
- Provide support – EXPLAIN!! Make sure that it makes sense!

4. Transition Sentence

- Finishes the paragraph and begins the next paragraph

Body Paragraph #2

1. Topic Sentence

- Tells the reader what this paragraph is about
- Must refer back to your **thesis statement**

2. Example

- Give an example that supports the topic sentence. (You may give more than 1 example!)

3. Explanation

- Explain the example (must explain each example)
- Provide support – EXPLAIN!! Make sure that it makes sense!

4. Transition Sentence

- Finishes the paragraph and begins the next paragraph

Body Paragraph #3

1. Topic Sentence

- Tells the reader what this paragraph is about
- Must refer back to your **thesis statement**

2. Example

- Give an example that supports the topic sentence. (You may give more than 1 example!)

3. Explanation

- Explain the example (must explain each example)
- Provide support – EXPLAIN!! Make sure that it makes sense!

4. Concluding Sentence

- Wrap up the final body paragraph

Conclusion Paragraph

1. Restate your thesis!
 - Reword your thesis statement
 - This helps emphasize the main point of the paper
2. Summarize all important information from body paragraphs
 - Highlight any important information. Remind the reader about all of your important points.

Conclusion Paragraph

1. Final Thought

- This will depend on the type of paper you are writing
 - Informational – Give audience a lasting impression of important information covered in the paper
 - Persuasive – Give audience a memorable statement that will evoke a response, change an opinion, or persuade a person's thoughts

Questions

1. What is the purpose of a hook?
2. The first body paragraph of the paper should have an example that supports what?
3. What is the purpose of a transition sentence?
4. How many body paragraphs will you have?
5. Why do you summarize all important information in the conclusion? How does this help the reader?
6. How should you conclude your paper if it is Persuasive?