

Student's Name

Teacher's Name

Class

Date

Basic Outline for a Five-Paragraph Essay  
(approximately 500 words)

**I. Introduction**

- A. **The Hook:** the first one or two sentences to catch the reader's attention.
- B. **Set up the thesis statement** with one to two sentences.
- C. **End introduction with the thesis statement:** This is the main idea of the essay and should include the points you will address throughout. The thesis is a roadmap for the reader. If the thesis includes a list of points, they should be arranged in an order that creates natural transitions from one to the next.

**II. Body paragraph**

- A. **Topic sentence:** This is the first sentence of a main paragraph. It should reference the thesis in a direct way.
- B. The remaining four-to-five sentences of the paragraph will **support the topic sentence**. Unless otherwise instructed, all expository and persuasive essays should be written in the third person.
- C. Offer quoted and cited information if necessary. Essentially, all essays make claims for, against, or about something, and research serves as evidence to support a claim.
- D. Mini-conclusion and transition

### III. Body paragraph

- A. **Topic Sentence:** Reference the thesis.
- B. **Supporting sentences**
- C. Offer quoted and cited information if necessary
- D. Mini-conclusion and transition

### IV. Body paragraph

- A. **Topic Sentence:** Reference the thesis.
- B. **Supporting sentences**
- C. Offer quoted and cited information if necessary
- D. Mini-conclusion and transition

### V. Conclusion

- A. **Reiterate the ideas in your thesis** without repeating yourself. This can be one of the hardest paragraphs to write.
- B. **Do not** include new facts or information. This isn't the space to bring up new points or ideas.
- C. End the essay with a **final impression that reflects the theme of the paper.**