



## Writing Guide: **The Five-Paragraph Academic Essay**

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**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