



5 PART ESSAY FORMAT

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Single-most important part of your speech!!

The introduction should include the following elements:

- **Background information:** Enough information necessary for your reader to understand your topic
- **Thesis statement:** Indicates your topic, makes your paper's purpose clear
- **Roadmap:** provides an overview of the **three main supporting points** that will unify the essay. The thesis statement is typically the last sentence.
- **If you are writing in response to a written text:** the introduction should include the title, author, and genre of that piece.



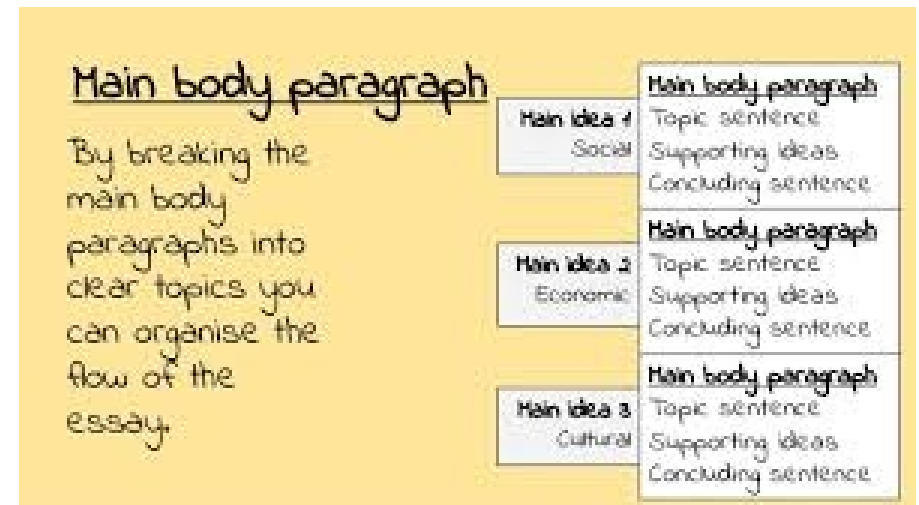
1ST BODY PARAGRAPH

Topic sentence:

- **Identifies one main idea** that will be discussed as support or proof for the thesis statement.

Supporting sentences:

- Expand and explain the main idea.
- Use specific details.
- Are demonstrated through closely related examples or evidence.
- Should contain a mix of **3 supporting elements (facts, statistics, anecdotes, quotes, scripture, or personal stories)**.
- Generally at least **5 to 8 sentences per paragraph**.
- Has a **paragraph clincher sentence**.

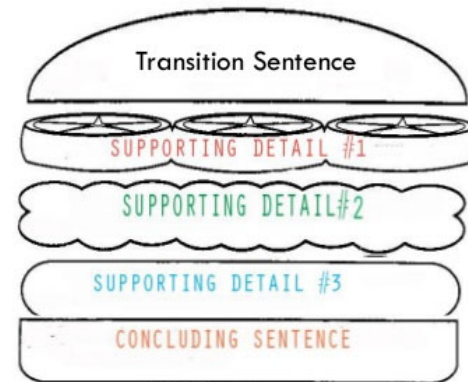


2ND BODY PARAGRAPH

This paragraph, and any subsequent body paragraph, should:

- **Begin with a topic sentence** that signals the reader that a new idea or point is being introduced.
- **Use transition words or phrases at the outset** of your body paragraphs and to move from one idea to another within your paragraphs.
- Have the **same supporting elements as the 1st Body paragraph** (anecdotes, quotes, scripture, or personal stories).
- **Paragraph unity means:**
 - **All ideas** in a paragraph are **closely related** to its topic sentence.
 - Paragraph ideas **further develop that topic** sentence.
 - Must be **unified around a central point or idea**.

The body paragraph's structure may remind you of a certain food.



Just as you may add lettuce, tomato, cheese, onions, and pickles to a burger to spice it up or add flavor, you need to add flavor to your body paragraphs through elaboration.

3RD BODY PARAGRAPH

This paragraph begins with the **final topic sentence** that relates back to the **remaining point mentioned in the thesis statement**.

- **Each paragraph should contain:**
 - **a new main idea.** Again, flesh out this main idea with specific examples, details, and relevant support.
 - **paragraph unity.** That is, each sentence must relate to your topic sentence.

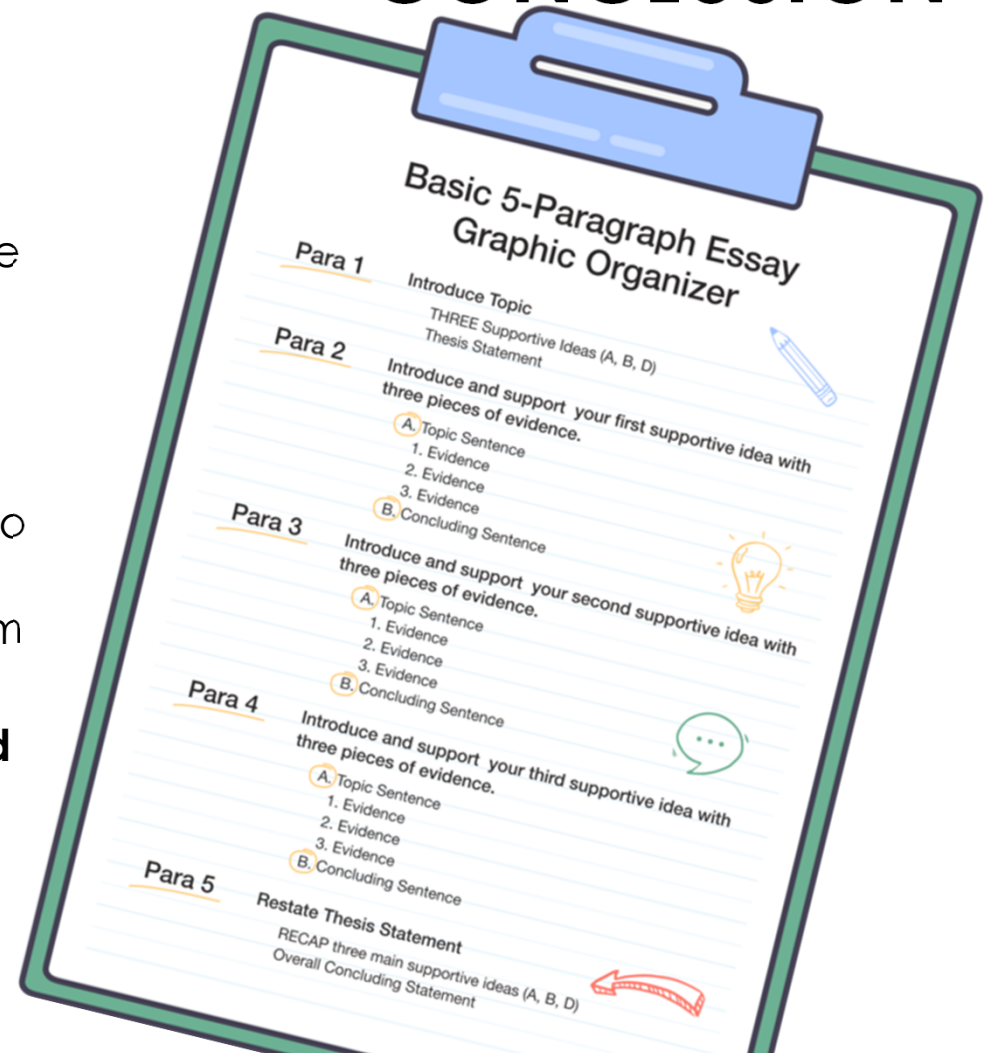
One of the easiest snacks to pack for school is the basic apple. This solid fruit is a particular favorite because it is easy to pack. Just rinse it off, and it's ready for the lunch box or bag.

Annotations:

- Green arrow pointing to the first sentence: "One of the easiest snacks to pack for school is the basic apple." (Topic sentence)
- Yellow arrow pointing to "solid fruit": "A little definition"
- Yellow arrow pointing to "particular favorite": "relate to reader"
- Blue arrow pointing to "Just rinse it off, and it's ready for the lunch box or bag.": "Details explaining why the apple is a favorite"

CONCLUSION

- **The conclusion:**
 - revisits your overall purpose for writing
 - often invites your reader to consider the implications of why your ideas are significant.
 - may restate the thesis
 - summarizes the paper's major points,
 - leaves the reader with a final thought to ponder.
 - does not repeat the same wording from the introduction or body paragraphs.
- **Remember not to introduce new, unrelated ideas in the conclusion.**



THINGS TO CHECK

• COHERENCE

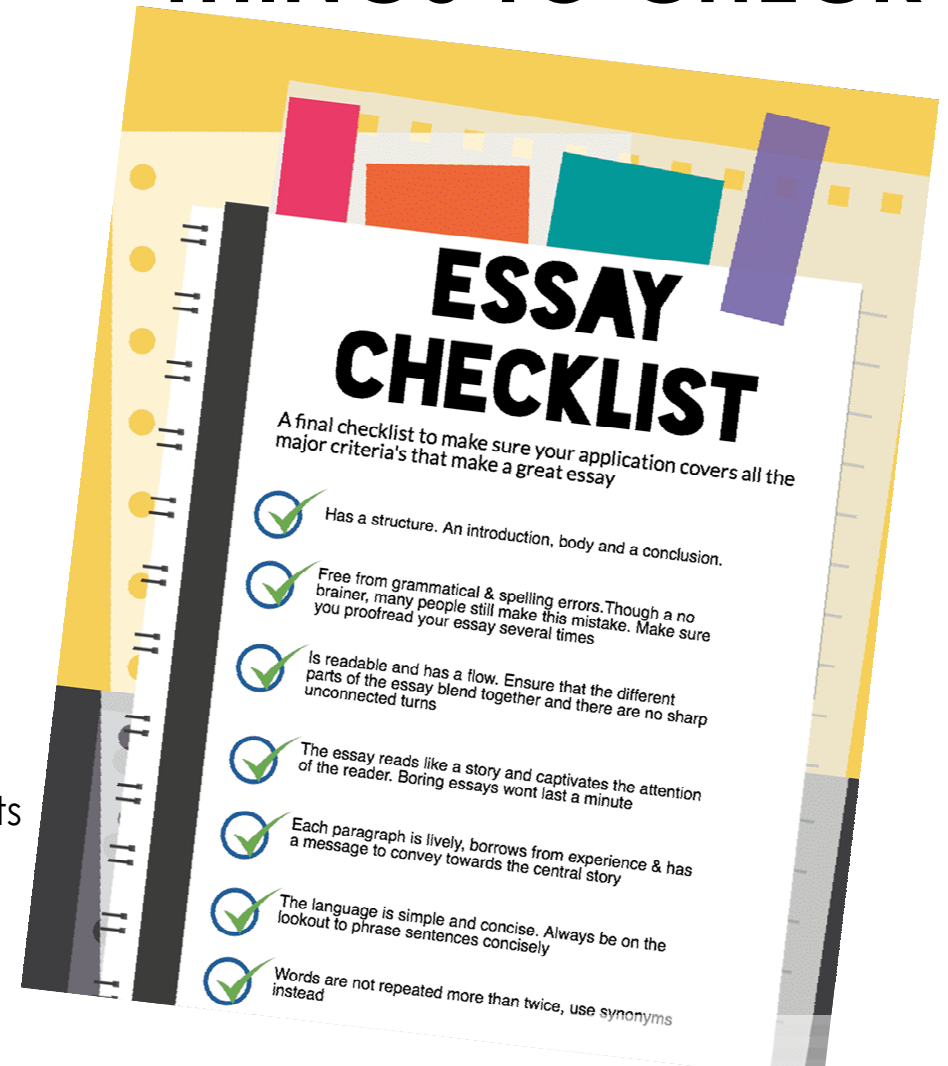
- As you organize your essay, keep in mind its coherence. Coherence refers to connections among paragraphs and ideas—the logical sequence of your thoughts.
- Be sure to think about coherence during the revision stage of the writing process.

• TRANSITIONS

- Have you transitioned logically from the main idea in the previous paragraph to this one?
- Are you making clear connections among the paragraphs and ideas?

• PARAGRAPH UNITY

- All ideas in a paragraph are closely related to its topic sentence.
- Paragraph ideas further develop that topic sentence.
- Must be unified around a central point or idea.



BOOKENDS

Think of the **introduction and conclusion** as **“bookends”** that serve to hold the essay tightly together.

- **The introduction will:**
 - **“Push” into** or initiate the examination of your topic
 - **“Push” into** or initiate the angle you decide to focus on
- **The conclusion will:**
 - **“Pull” tight** all the ideas that you have gathered together for a unified essay.
- **Remember, the five-paragraph model:**
 - **Can be expanded** to include more body paragraphs that probe more deeply into your subject.
 - Will expand/contract **depending on your event.**



- Typically, a five paragraph essay is **250 to 500 words** long.
- While **sometimes** it is **enough to answer a question**, in **other cases**, a student has to **conduct in-depth research** and **offer more solutions** to the problems discussed.
- **Train hard** at home.
- Master the art of academic writing.

Remember that any **impromptu speech** you have to write for an event could be **limited by time**, so you will have to **prepare a 5 paragraph essay** outline and write the text itself with the **speed of light**.



TYPES OF Stoa SPEECHES

Interpretive

- An interpretive **piece** would be “**cut**” from an **event or series of events** in a story.
- Interpretive usually **involves a character in conflict**
- Details of **character, setting, conflict, and plot** are **chosen** and **ordered** to develop a **main theme or idea**
- Follows **IEW’s Story Sequence Chart** Keyword Outline

Persuasive

- Aims to **move audience to support a point of view** or **to act** in support of an **idea** or **cause**.
- Often **begins** with competitor’s **position**, then present **arguments** and **evidence** of that position, and concludes with a **call to action** or **recommendation**.
- Arranges points for **maximum impact**
- Combines **logical** and **emotional appeals** to win over specific audience

Informative

- Involves presenting **facts** to a **specific audience**.
- Arranged to make **info** as **accessible** and **understandable** to the audience as possible.
- Often **define unfamiliar** or **technical terms** by **comparing** them more **familiar examples**
- Competitor’s **personal opinion** or **value judgements** are **not a part** of expository speech
- Follows **IEW’s Summarizing a Reference** Keyword Outline

Impromptu

- Competitors **prepare speech at the tournament**
- **Prep time** is typically **4 minutes**
- **Apologetics** focuses on **theological questions**
- **Mars Hill Impromptu** focuses on how **themes** found in **culture** relate to the Christian faith
- **Novice Impromptu** is for competitors in their **first year of competition** ONLY
- **Can prepare in advance** with tools to help with prep time
- Follows **IEW’s Summarizing a Reference** Keyword Outline

ESSAY PARAGRAPH TYPES

Different speech events will better suited to a particular type of speech essay.

Some essays are better off with narrow and serious topics while the rest of the essays suit better if the student writes a creative story full of jokes.

TYPES OF SPEECH ESSAY PARAGRAPHS INCLUDE:

- Definition
- Descriptive
- Narrative
- Argumentative & Persuasive
- Compare & Contrast
- Cause & effect
- Literary analysis

Five-paragraph essay

A prose composition that includes an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. They contrast with the exploratory essay in the format and use. The five-paragraph essay is often practiced in schools and on standardized tests.

Literary essay

A non-fiction composition that can cover any literary topic. Students are often assigned literary essays to assess their knowledge of books or stories they read.

Expository essay

A genre of essay that investigates an idea, evaluates evidence, or unpacks an idea.

Persuasive essay

An attempt by the writer to get the reader to agree with a certain point of view on a subject.

Position paper

A business or political report outlining someone's attitude or intentions regarding a particular matter.