



General Essay Template (5 Paragraphs)

I. Introductory Paragraph

A. Tell the reader about the topic or subject

1) Who, what, when, why and how?

B. Give the reader a general idea of what you will be talking about in your topic sentences.

1) This is the build up to your thesis statement.

2) Use a “hook” to catch the interest of the reader

C. Thesis Statement

1) Before you began writing this essay, you decided on a thesis statement; it belongs here, at the end of your introductory paragraph.

II. Topic Sentence

A. The topic sentence tells the reader what to expect in this paragraph.

1) The supporting information should be related to this topic sentence.

B. The paragraph should be full and complete; it should make the reader want to know what else you have to say.

1) Use as many examples as needed in order to get your information across.

C. Don't forget to conclude the paragraph.

III. **Topic Sentence** (follow the same format for all supporting paragraphs)

IV. **Topic Sentence** (follow the same format for all supporting paragraphs)

V. **Conclusion**

A. This is where you restate your thesis statement.

1) Re-state DOES NOT mean copying word for word from your introductory paragraph. Find a different way to make this statement.

B. Thanks to your brilliant writing in paragraphs II, III and IV, the reader now agrees with your statement and viewpoint. Don't be afraid to share your thoughts in this last paragraph.

C. Make sure this paragraph is as complete, coherent and as unified as all of your other paragraphs.