

Standard Five Paragraph Essay Outline Format

I. Introduction

- A. Creative Opening to catch the audience's attention. Students can use quotes, interesting facts and figures, joke or anecdotes, etc.
- B. Background information
- C. Preview of the main points of the essay.
- D. Thesis Statement affirms the main idea of the essay.

II. Body

- A. Paragraph 1
 1. Topic sentence states the main idea of the paragraph and transitions from the paragraph before it
 2. Supporting details defend or strengthen the topic sentence. Students should use at least two supporting details in each paragraph. Supporting details can include facts, examples, and expert opinions about a specific subject. If primary or secondary sources are used, students must use MLA parenthetical citations.
 - B. Paragraph 2
 1. Topic sentence states the main idea of the paragraph and transitions from the paragraph before it
 2. Supporting details defend or strengthen the topic sentence
 - C. Paragraph 3
 1. Topic sentence states the main idea of the paragraph and transitions from the paragraph before it
 2. Supporting details defend or strengthen the topic sentence
- (NOTE: More paragraphs can be created using the same format.)

III. Conclusion

- A. Restate thesis statement. Students should reword the thesis statement.
- B. Summarize main points. Students should reword topic sentences.
- C. Tie to Opening. Students should relate their conclusion to the opening of the essay.

Writing essays

opening sentences

It is often said that .../Many people claimed that...
In this day and age.../Nowadays...
...is a hotly debated topic that often divides opinion.
...is often discussed yet rarely understood.

Introducing points

Firstly, let us take a look at.../To start with.../First off all...it is worth considering...
Secondly.../ Thirdly...
Furthermore,.../In addition, .../What is more.../Another point worth noting is.../Another factor to consider is...
Lastly.../Finally.../Last not least...

Presenting ideas & giving examples

There are those who argue that...
According to .../When it comes to...
For example .../For instance.../such as.../Like...

Expressing result & reason

As a result of.../has led to...
Consequently.../Therefore...
One reason behind this is.../ Due to..

Opinion

As far as I'm concerned...
from my point of view...
Personally speaking...
In my opinion...

Concluding

To sum up.../In conclusion...
all things considered...
Taking everything into consideration.
All in one.../In short...