

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...