

FIVE PARAGRAPH RESEARCH ESSAY GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH ONE

Here is where you introduce your topic with three supporting pieces of evidence from your research. This paragraph should include a thesis statement.

A thesis statement is usually a single sentence near the beginning of your paper (most often, at the end of the first paragraph) that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper, the body of the essay, gathers and organizes evidence that will persuade the reader of the logic of your interpretation.

TRANSITIONAL
PHRASES

BODY PARAGRAPH TWO

The first body paragraph (second paragraph) should reiterate the main idea presented in the introductory paragraph and include the first piece of evidence to support your position.

Citation

TRANSITIONAL
PHRASES

BODY PARAGRAPH THREE

The second body paragraph (third paragraph) should include the second piece of evidence presented in the introductory paragraph to support your position.

Citation

TRANSITIONAL
PHRASES

BODY PARAGRAPH FOUR

The third body paragraph (fourth paragraph) should include the third piece of evidence presented in the introductory paragraph to support your position.

Citation

TRANSITIONAL
PHRASES

CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH FIVE

The conclusionary paragraph should restate the thesis and summarize the three main pieces of evidence outlined in the essay. The last sentence should be a finalizing statement to close the essay.

A successful five paragraph research essay can be accomplished by using the provided diagram.

Start with a blank template and organize your thoughts in each of the relevant boxes. Include transition statements in each of your body paragraphs. Reiterate the thesis statement in the conclusion paragraph (paragraph five). With this method, the essay becomes more manageable and organized. With a strong thesis statement and good transitional sentences, your five paragraph essay is already well on its way to being completed. The research portion of the essay will take the longest, but if you diagram out your essay it will save you a lot of time and energy. I hope that this will help you organize your thoughts - now you just have to use your time wisely to get it done. You've got this!

NOTES

INTRO (P1)

Thesis Statement

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BODY (P2)

Transitional Sentence

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BODY (P3)

Transitional Sentence

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BODY (P4)

Transitional Sentence

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CONCLUSION (P5)

Conclusionary Statement