

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.