

Barebones Outline of the Five-Paragraph Essay

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Background Information:

- First sentence that might grab the reader's interest – often called a 'hook.'
- Background information that create an intellectual context for the thesis statement.
- Author's name and title of text must appear in this paragraph.

Thesis Statement:

Paragraph 2: First Body Paragraph (Point 1 – Quote 1)

Topic Sentence

Supporting Quote (evidence)

Development

Paragraph 3: Second Body Paragraph (Point 2 – Quote 2)

Topic Sentence

Supporting Quote

Development

Paragraph 4: Third Body Paragraph (Point 3 – Quote 3)

Topic Sentence

Supporting Quote

Development

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

- Repeat of thesis using different words.
- Overall conclusion --- end with a larger idea or comment about the essay's theme as it may relate to life in general.