

Steps in writing your Essay

1. Decide on the topic for your essay.
2. Organize your essay:

Paragraph 1: **Thesis Statement**

Your first paragraph will be a general statement that will mention what your essay will be about. The first sentence will introduce the topic in a general way. This is a **topic sentence**. Your next three sentences should mention the **three main ideas** that will make up the **body** of your essay. Do not give any specific details at this time. Write them in the order in which they will appear in your essay. The last sentence of your thesis statement should again be a general statement that wraps up this paragraph. This sentence is known as a **conclusion**.

Paragraph 2: **Main Idea #1**: You should begin by indenting. Start with a general sentence that introduces the first main idea that you discussed in your thesis statement. This is your **topic sentence**. Follow with at least three sentences that give **details**, or specific information about your topic. Your last sentence should be a general statement that wraps up this paragraph. This sentence is known as a **conclusion**.

Paragraph 3: **Main Idea #2**: You should begin by indenting. Start with a general sentence that introduces the first main idea that you discussed in your thesis statement. This is your **topic sentence**. Follow with at least three sentences that give **details**, or specific information about your topic. Your last sentence should be a general statement that wraps up this paragraph. This sentence is known as a **conclusion**.

Paragraph 4: **Main Idea #3**: You should begin by indenting. Start with a general sentence that introduces the first main idea that you discussed in your thesis statement. This is your **topic sentence**. Follow with at least three sentences that give **details**, or specific information about your topic. Your last sentence should be a general statement that wraps up this paragraph. This sentence is known as a **conclusion**.

Paragraph 5: **Conclusion**

This paragraph will look a lot like your thesis statement. It will be general, but it will wrap up or tie together all the things that you mentioned in the essay. A good conclusion will sum up each main idea that was written in your essay.

Each paragraph should be set up like this:

Topic sentence

3 (or more) supporting details

Conclusion

Think of each paragraph as a mini essay.

Use transitional phrases in your topic sentence and in your conclusion.

Fill in the blanks for your rough draft: Each paragraph is a mini-essay. Each paragraph should start with a topic sentence; have three details, and a conclusion.

1. Thesis statement: Generally discuss your topic. List the three main points you will be writing about. End the paragraph with a conclusion.

(Indent) _____

2. First main idea: Begin with a topic sentence. Follow it with at least three details. End with a conclusion.

3. Second main idea: Begin with a topic sentence. Follow it with at least three details. End with a conclusion.

4. Third main idea: Begin with a topic sentence. Follow it with at least three details. End with a conclusion.

- 5. Conclusion:** Begin with a topic sentence. Write a general statement about each of your main ideas. End it with a conclusion.

3. A well-written essay will use transitional phrases throughout. It will also be very descriptive. Descriptive language can include using sensory details (sight, sound, taste, touch, smell), or figurative language (metaphors, simile, personification) that paint a picture in the reader's mind.