

5 Paragraph Essay Graphic Organizer

Argumentative essay, grades 9-10. Introduction, three body paragraphs, conclusion.

Prompt or topic

Introduction

PARAGRAPH 1

Hook

A fact, question, quotation or short scene that makes the reader want to keep going.

Context

What the reader needs to know about the topic, the text or the debate before your claim makes sense.

Thesis (your claim)

One sentence that takes a position the reader could disagree with, and names your three reasons.

Body paragraph 1

PARAGRAPH 2

Topic sentence

States reason 1 and links it back to the thesis.

Evidence

A quotation, statistic or example, with where it came from (author, title, page or paragraph).

Reasoning (explain it)

How does this evidence prove your point? This is where most of the marks are. Aim for two or three sentences.

Transition / closing sentence

Wrap up the point and lead into the next paragraph.

Body paragraph 2

PARAGRAPH 3

Topic sentence

States reason 2 and links it back to the thesis.

Evidence

A quotation, statistic or example, with where it came from (author, title, page or paragraph).

Reasoning (explain it)

How does this evidence prove your point? This is where most of the marks are. Aim for two or three sentences.

Transition / closing sentence

Wrap up the point and lead into the next paragraph.

Body paragraph 3

PARAGRAPH 4

Topic sentence

States reason 3 and links it back to the thesis.

Evidence

A quotation, statistic or example, with where it came from (author, title, page or paragraph).

Reasoning (explain it)

How does this evidence prove your point? This is where most of the marks are. Aim for two or three sentences.

Transition / closing sentence

Wrap up the point and lead into the next paragraph.

Counterclaim and rebuttal

INSIDE A BODY PARAGRAPH, OR ITS OWN

Counterclaim

The strongest point someone who disagrees with you would make. State it fairly.

Rebuttal

Why your position still holds. Use evidence or reasoning, not just "but I am right".

Conclusion

PARAGRAPH 5

Restate the thesis

Same claim, new words. Do not copy the first sentence of the essay.

Sum up the three reasons

One sentence, not a list of everything again.

So what?

Why this matters beyond the essay: a consequence, a call to action, or a bigger question.

Before you hand it in

- ☐ My thesis takes a position someone could argue against.
- ☐ Every body paragraph starts with a topic sentence tied to the thesis.
- ☐ Every piece of evidence says where it came from.
- ☐ I explained how each piece of evidence proves my point.
- ☐ I answered at least one counterclaim.
- ☐ My paragraphs connect with transitions.
- ☐ My conclusion does more than repeat the introduction.

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