

**Basic Outline for a Five Paragraph Essay
(approximately 500 words)**

I. Introduction

- A. **The Hook:** the first one or two sentences to catch the reader's attention.
- B. **Set up the thesis statement** with one to two sentences.
- C. **End introduction with the thesis statement:** This is the main idea of the essay and should include the points you will address throughout. The thesis is a roadmap for the reader. If the thesis includes a list of points, they should be arranged in an order that creates natural transitions from one to the next.

II. Body paragraph

- A. **Topic sentence:** This is the first sentence of a main paragraph. It should reference the thesis in a direct way.
- B. The remaining three to five sentences of the paragraph will **support the topic sentence.**

III. Body paragraph

- A. **Topic Sentence:** Reference the thesis.
- B. **Supporting sentences**

IV. Body paragraph

- A. **Topic Sentence:** Reference the thesis.
- B. **Supporting sentences**

V. Conclusion

- A. **Reiterate the ideas in your thesis** without repeating yourself.
- B. End the essay with **a final impression that reflects the theme of the paper.**