

The Five-Paragraph Essay Structure

1. The Introductory Paragraph

- The Hook is the first sentence to capture the reader's interest.
- Use 3-5 "narrowing sentences" to lead up to the topic of the essay.
- The Thesis Statement will be the last sentence.
 - State clearly the topic.
 - Include a "contention" about the topic (usually an adjective – fun, fulfilling, extreme, etc.).
 - Include a "plan of attack" to take (3 sub-topics that will each be discussed in the 3 Body Paragraphs.).

Introductory Paragraph example:

What exciting recreational activity beckons you whenever you have free time on your hands? (HOOK) Different individuals handle this lull in the action of their lives in a variety of ways. For example, some squander the time as "couch potatoes," while others choose to become involved in pastimes that are either physically or mentally stimulating. Currently one particular activity, snowboarding, has become one of the world's favorite recreations. (3 NARROWING SENTENCES) When an individual acquires the necessary equipment, discovers a suitable location, and masters basic skills, (PLAN OF ATTACK) snowboarding (TOPIC) becomes an enjoyable (CONTENTION) pastime. (THESIS STATEMENT)

2. Body Paragraph #1 (ACQUIRES THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT)

- Begin with a clear topic sentence.
- Present on-topic information.
- End with a clear concluding sentence.

3. Body Paragraph #2 (DISCOVERS A SUITABLE LOCATION)

- Begin with a clear topic sentence.
- Present on-topic information.
- End with a clear concluding sentence.

4. Body Paragraph #3 (MASTERS BASIC SKILLS)

- Begin with a clear topic sentence.
- Present on-topic information.
- End with a clear concluding sentence.

5. Concluding Paragraph

- Restate the Thesis Statement in different words.
- Give a one-sentence Summary Statement of Body Paragraph #1.
- Give a one-sentence Summary Statement of Body Paragraph #2.
- Give a one-sentence Summary Statement of Body Paragraph #3.
- End with a concluding statement.