

HOW TO WRITE A FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY

BEFORE YOU START WRITING

1. Read the prompt. Make sure that you understand the question that is being asked.
2. Brainstorm different ways to answer the prompt.
3. Use your brainstorm to come up with a one sentence answer to the prompt.
4. Create an outline for your essay.

WRITE YOUR ROUGH DRAFT

Write a rough draft of your essay. Use your outline to help guide your writing.

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

- Explain the topic of your essay
- Provide relevant background information
- Write your thesis (answer the essay prompt with three different supporting points that will become your topic sentences)

BODY PARAGRAPHS

- First sentence needs to transition between paragraphs and connect your topic sentence to your thesis statement
- Use 2-3 specific examples to support your topic sentence (make sure to include an explanation for each example and clearly connect them to your argument)
- Finish with a one sentence summary that connects the argument and examples that you used in your paragraph to your thesis statement

CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH

- Restate the topic of your essay
- Draw conclusions from your essay and the arguments that you made
- Finish on a strong note (connection to today's world, connection to the future, connection to U.S. history, connection to history in general...)

EDIT/REVISE YOUR ESSAY

1. Share your essay with other people to get their input on the following areas...
 - Spelling and grammar
 - Organization
 - Clarity
 - Strength of your argument
2. Make changes to your essay based on other people's comments

PUBLISH YOUR ESSAY

1. Make final changes to your essay and check the details...
 - Indent your paragraphs
 - Use proper punctuation and capitalization
 - Spell words correctly
 - Add a bibliography using standard MLA format
2. Make sure you have a heading and title for your essay
3. Make your paper neat and easy to read
4. Hand it in!