

# Five-Paragraph Essay Outline

## With 2 Forms of Evidence plus Elaboration per Paragraph

### Outline Tips:

1. Working out an outline is like putting a puzzle together. The pieces are all moveable until you find the right place for argument or statement. Use a pencil so that you can move things around when necessary. Also, remember that the paragraph structure provided here is only a guideline. You may add to your supporting evidence as your topic demands.
2. Complete sentences are not necessary in the outline format. The point is to get your components in order.
3. Because of page space, the introduction and conclusion parts of this outline are placed together on the page below. Obviously, when typing your essay, you should place the conclusion paragraph *after* your body paragraphs.

### I. Introduction

A. Capture attention: try a startling fact, interesting quote, sentence fragment, a vivid description, or an arresting anecdote.

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B. Background teaser: two to three sentences of basic information about your topic that does not steal data from your body paragraphs.

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C. Thesis Statement

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### V. Conclusion

A. Remind your reader of the thesis (what you have proved), but in different words.

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B. Present a call to action, benefit to be gained, or final anecdote.

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C. End with a memorable thought.

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## II. First Body Paragraph

A. Topic Sentence (weakest point)

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B. Statement 1 \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Evidence/Support \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Elaborate – add commentary \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Statement 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Evidence/Support \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Elaborate – add commentary \_\_\_\_\_

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D. Clincher Sentence (reflect thesis statement or transition to next paragraph):

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### III. Second Body Paragraph

A. Topic Sentence

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B. Statement 1

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1. Evidence/Support

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2. Elaborate – add commentary

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C. Statement 2

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1. Evidence/Support

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2. Elaborate – add commentary

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D. Clincher Sentence (reflect thesis statement or transition to next paragraph)

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# IV. Third Body Paragraph

A. Topic Sentence (strongest point)

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B. Statement 1 \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Evidence/Support \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Elaborate – add commentary \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Statement 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Evidence/Support \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Elaborate – add commentary \_\_\_\_\_

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D. Clincher Sentence (reflect thesis statement or transition to next paragraph):

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