

# THE FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY

"Like a road map showing a driver's route on the interstate highways, the movement of a thesis statement directs the ideas through an essay." - *Harbrace Handbook, 9th edition*

A *thesis statement* should state the subject, express an opinion, and suggest a pattern of organization with the main points written in order of importance from weakest to strongest. The usual placement for the thesis statement is the last sentence of the introductory paragraph.

## SUBJECT + OPINION + MAIN POINTS = THESIS

SUBJECT	The topic or material you are writing about
OPINION	The attitude, position, or feeling you have regarding your topic (subject)
MAIN POINTS	Facts and reasons used to support your <b>OPINION</b> about your <b>SUBJECT</b>

SUBJECT		OPINION		MAIN POINTS
Collecting baseball cards	+	is a good investment	+	1. relatively inexpensive when new 2. become valuable 3. retain value

### THESIS

Collecting baseball cards is a good investment because baseball cards are relatively inexpensive when new, become valuable quickly, and retain their value indefinitely.

## OUTLINE YOUR THESIS

SUBJECT		OPINION		MAIN POINTS
	+		+	1. 2. 3.

## MY INTRODUCTION

*Introductory Paragraph*: "An effective introduction presents the **subject**, states the **main idea**, creates **interest**; at the same time, it displays a **CLEAR sense** of the paper's purpose and audience." - *The Writer's Handbook, 2nd ed*

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## MY THESIS - LAST SENTENCE OF FIRST PARAGRAPH

THESIS:

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## MY BODY

The Body Paragraphs must correspond to the main points in the thesis, and each paragraph must contain examples supporting that main point.

Body Paragraph 1: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC SENTENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 2: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 3: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

Body Paragraph 2: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC SENTENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 2: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 3: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

Body Paragraph 3: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC SENTENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 2: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAIL 3: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

## MY CONCLUSION

Concluding Paragraph: "An effective conclusion should tie the parts together, emphasize the main idea, and give a sense of closure to the material." - *The Writers Handbook, 2nd edition*

Conclusion:

REVIEW MAIN POINTS (RESTATE THESIS): \_\_\_\_\_

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CLOSING REMARK REGARDING **SUBJECT**: \_\_\_\_\_

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