

## Five-Paragraph Essay *Writing*

**Five-Paragraph Essay** = writing with organized and clearly expressed thoughts.

- The “hamburger” essay!
- Use it for exam questions, formal writing, and speeches.

**Five Sections:**

- Introduction – a brief overview with a thesis. *What’s it about?*
- Narration – review or describe the events. *What do we already know?*
- Affirmation – prove with examples and explain. *Why is your view correct?*
- Negation – explain why others are incorrect. *What’s the wrong evidence?*
- Conclusion – a brief summary of the main points. *Reaffirm the thesis.*

1. Choose one of the following topics for a five-paragraph essay.

- A lawyer must persuade a jury of third graders that homework is good for them.
- What is the one thing every good leader must have?
- Are self-driving delivery trucks a good idea?



2. Planning and organizing are important parts of the writing process. Spend a few minutes outlining your essay.

- **Introduction** (*What’s it about and the thesis?*)
- **Narration** (*What do we already know?*)
- **Affirmation** (*What is the proof, and how will you explain with examples?*)
- **Negation** (*Why are others not as good?*)
- **Conclusion** (*What are three main points?*)

3. Here we go, now write a five paragraph essay with the following requirements:

- Introduction (**3-4 sentences**)
- Narration (**6-8 sentences**)
- Affirmation (**6-8 sentences**)
- Negation (**6-8 sentences**)
- Conclusion (**3-4 sentences**)

Also, don’t forget things that please teachers: format, neatness, and spelling.

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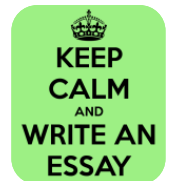
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Grading Tips: The key is ensuring students understand the five parts with content being secondary. Perform a quick scan, grouping essays into the following preliminary categories: Excellent, Good, Average, and Poor. From there use percent grading to differentiate essays by structure and content. Typical results may look like this: A (30%), B (40%), C (20%), D & F (10%).