

WRITING THE FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY

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Writing the Five Paragraph Essay

The five-paragraph essay should contain an introductory paragraph, followed by 3 paragraphs of supporting details, and a concluding paragraph.

Introductory paragraph:

The introductory paragraph shall follow one of these patterns:

- (1) historical review,
- (2) anecdotal,
- (3) surprising statement,
- (4) famous person, or
- (5) declarative.

The introductory paragraph shall also include the thesis statement which is to be a mini-outline for the paper. The last sentence of this paragraph must also contain a transitional "hook" which moves the reader to the first paragraph of the body of the paper.

Body:

First paragraph: The first paragraph of the body shall contain the strongest argument, most significant example, cleverest illustration, or an obvious beginning point. The first sentence of this paragraph shall include the "reverse hook" which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the introductory paragraph. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph shall include a transitional hook to tie into the second paragraph of the body.

Second paragraph: The second paragraph of the body shall contain the second strongest argument, second most significant example, second cleverest illustration, or an obvious follow up the first paragraph in the body. The first sentence of this paragraph shall include the reverse hook which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the first paragraph of the body. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph shall include a transitional hook to tie into the third paragraph of the body.

Third paragraph: The third paragraph of the body shall contain the weakest argument, weakest example, we

EXAMPLE Paper (rough draft)



The sense of sight, the primary sense, is particularly susceptible to manipulation. In "The Tell-Tale Heart," Poe uses the following image to describe a static scene: "His room was as black as pitch with the thick darkness . . ." Poe used the words "black," "pitch," and "thick darkness" not only to show the reader the condition of the old man's room, but also to make the reader feel the darkness." "Thick" is a word that is not usually associated with color (darkness), yet in using it, Poe stimulates the reader's sense of feeling as well as his sense of sight.

In the first sentence of the second paragraph (first paragraph of the "body") the words "sense" and "manipulation" are used to hook into the end of the introductory paragraph. The first part of the second sentence provides the topic for this paragraph-- imagery in a static scene. Then a quotation from "The Tell-Tale Heart" is presented and briefly discussed. The last sentence of this paragraph uses the expressions "sense of feeling" and "sense of sight" as hooks for leading into the third paragraph.

opening]--you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily--until, at length, a single dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye." By using the metaphor of the thread of the spider (which we all know is a creepy creature) and the word "shot," Poe almost makes the reader gasp, as surely did the old man whose one blind eye the young man describes as "the vulture eye."

and it is briefly discussed. The last sentence uses the words "one blind eye" which was in the quotation.

mind of the reader that is inescapable.



"Thick darkness," "thread of the spider," and "vulture eye" are three images that Poe used in "The Tell-Tale Heart" to stimulate a reader's senses. Poe wanted the reader to see and feel real life. He used concrete imagery rather than vague abstract words to describe settings and people. If Edgar Allan Poe was one of Stephen

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