

How to Write an Essay

1. Introduction Paragraph

- a. **Hook**- A piece of information, quotation, or statement that will capture the reader's attention.
- b. **Background Information**- Information that explains why the topic matters. So what?
- c. **Context**- Explain how the prompt connects to the piece of literature you are writing about. (Include the title/author in this section.)
- d. **Claim**- What you are trying to prove in this essay. The answer to the prompt.

2. Body Paragraph 1

- a. **Topic Sentence**- One reason why your claim is true.
- b. **Quotation #1**- Evidence from the text that supports the topic sentence of this paragraph.
 - i. **Commentary**- Explain Quotation #1 in your own words.
 - ii. **Commentary**- Explain how Quotation #1 proves your claim.
- c. **Quotation #2**- Evidence from the text that supports the topic sentence of this paragraph.
 - i. **Commentary**- Explain Quotation #2 in your own words.
 - ii. **Commentary**- Explain how Quotation #2 proves your claim.
- d. **Transition**- A sentence that connects the topic of body paragraphs 1 and 2.

3. Body Paragraph 2

- a. **Topic Sentence**- Another reason why your claim is true.
- b. **Quotation #1**- Evidence from the text that supports the topic sentence of this paragraph.
 - i. **Commentary**- Explain Quotation #1 in your own words.
 - ii. **Commentary**- Explain how Quotation #1 proves your claim.
- c. **Quotation #2**- Evidence from the text that supports the topic sentence of this paragraph.
 - i. **Commentary**- Explain Quotation #2 in your own words.
 - ii. **Commentary**- Explain how Quotation #2 proves your claim.
- d. **Transition**- A sentence that connects the topic of body paragraphs 2 and 3.

4. Body Paragraph 3

- a. **Topic Sentence**- Another reason why your claim is true.
- b. **Quotation #1**- Evidence from the text that supports the topic sentence of this paragraph.
 - i. **Commentary**- Explain Quotation #1 in your own words.
 - ii. **Commentary**- Explain how Quotation #1 proves your claim.
- c. **Quotation #2**- Evidence from the text that supports the topic sentence of this paragraph.
 - i. **Commentary**- Explain Quotation #2 in your own words.
 - ii. **Commentary**- Explain how Quotation #2 proves your claim.
- d. **Transition**- A sentence that connects the topic of body paragraphs 3 and the conclusion.

5. Conclusion

- a. **Restate the three main points** of your essay (look back at your topic sentences).
- b. **Restate your claim** in a different way.
- c. **Final statement about why your claim is important.** Why does it matter? Look at the big picture.