

## Components of a 5-Paragraph Essay

### Paragraph 1 – The Introduction

- Introduce your topic
- End with a *thesis statement* that **summarizes what the essay will say about the topic**

### Paragraph 2 – First Idea

- Topic sentence
- Write about the **first idea** listed in the thesis statement
- Concluding sentence

### Paragraph 3 – Second Idea

- Topic sentence
- Write about the **second idea** listed in the thesis statement
- Concluding sentence

### Paragraph 4 – Third Idea

- Topic sentence
- Write about the **third idea** listed in the thesis statement
- Concluding sentence

### Paragraph 5 – Conclusion

- Summarize what the essay was about
- End with a statement that **tells the reader why this topic is important or interesting, why they should care or make a change after reading it, etc.**



### Thesis statement

The thesis statement is the last sentence in the introduction paragraph that tells readers what the topic of the essay will be about. It includes the **main ideas** or reasons that support the topic.

Example:

*Ice cream is the best dessert because **there are many different types, a lot of places offer it, and it can make someone who is not feeling well feel better.***

### Topic Sentences

Topic sentences are the first sentence in each body paragraph which introduce the reason or main idea the paragraph will be discussing. The topic sentence should introduce the ideas in the order they are listed in the thesis statement, and only one idea or reason should be addressed in each paragraph. Topic sentences should start with **transitional words or phrases** that help connect the idea from the previous paragraph to the next one.

Examples:

*Topic sentence for body paragraph 1: **To begin**, ice cream wins for best dessert because **there are so many flavors to choose from**.*

*Topic sentence for body paragraph 2: **Additionally**, there are many ice cream places and restaurants that have ice cream, so **it is very available**.*

*Topic sentence for body paragraph 3: **Lastly**, ice cream is one of few desserts that can **soothe a sore throat and some say mend a broken heart as well**.*

## Concluding Sentence

A concluding sentence is the last sentence in each body paragraph. They tie together the main idea of the paragraph and **remind the reader what the information in this paragraph was about**.

Examples:

*Concluding sentence for body paragraph 1: With chocolate, vanilla, caramel swirl and hundreds more, **there is something for everyone's flavor preference with ice cream**.*

*Concluding sentence for body paragraph 2: **Since ice cream is available in so many places**, it makes it one of the easiest desserts to find.*

*Concluding sentence for body paragraph 3: When someone has a sore throat or is suffering from a breakup, **ice cream is sure to make them feel better**.*

