

5-Paragraph Outline Template (Standard Essays)

The classic structure for argumentative, expository, or literary analysis essays.

I. Introduction

- **Hook:** Engage your reader.
- **Connecting Information:** Provide background context to lead into your thesis.
- **Thesis Statement:** A single, clear sentence stating your central argument. (Often, this thesis will preview your three main points).

II. Body Paragraph 1 (Strongest Point)

- **Topic Sentence:** Introduces the first main supporting idea for your thesis.
- **Evidence (A):** Introduce a fact, quote, or example.
 - **Analysis:** Explain how Evidence A supports your topic sentence.
- **Evidence (B):** Introduce a second piece of evidence.
 - **Analysis:** Explain Evidence B and how it connects to Evidence A.
- **Concluding Sentence:** Tie the paragraph back to the thesis.

III. Body Paragraph 2 (Second Strongest Point)

- **Topic Sentence:** Introduces the second supporting idea. Use a transition word/phrase to show connection or contrast to Paragraph 1.
- **Evidence (A) + Analysis**
- **Evidence (B) + Analysis**
- **Concluding Sentence**

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (Third Key Point or Counterargument)

- **Topic Sentence:** Introduces the final supporting idea or a potential counterargument.
- **If a supporting point:** Follow the Evidence + Analysis pattern.

- **If a counterargument:** Acknowledge a opposing view, then refute it with evidence to reassert your thesis.
- **Concluding Sentence**

V. Conclusion

- **Restate Thesis:** Paraphrase your thesis statement, showing its strength after your arguments.
- **Synthesize Main Points:** Briefly summarize the key arguments from each body paragraph without repeating them verbatim.
- **Broadening Insight ("So What?"):** Answer the question of why your argument matters. Suggest implications, a call to action, or a final, resonant thought.

