

Rutgers Learning Centers

At Camden Campus

WRITING: FIVE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY

Introduction: Establishes the topic of the paper and moves from broad to specific. Opening paragraph sets the limits of discussion and is generally the place where the thesis statement is placed. Some professors require that thesis be the final sentence of the opening paragraph.

Thesis: Specifically states what you will prove, analyze or maintain in the paper. Usually will include a broad reference to the topics used to support or defend your thesis.

Topic Sentence #1 -- first point you use to defend your thesis.

Does the topic sentence support thesis? If it doesn't clearly defend your argument, the sentence needs to be rewritten.

REMEMBER: TO AVOID PLAGIARISM, STATE SOURCE FOR IDEAS, QUOTATIONS, AND PARAPHRASING.

Each topic paragraph includes:

- 1) topic sentence
- 2) supporting details
- 3) topic summary

Topic Sentence #2 -- Second defense point. Does it support your thesis?

Supporting Details (usually three to five sentences) -- check against topic sentence; is the support relevant? If not, the details need to be reworded or reselected to support topic.

Topic Sentence #3 -- Third defense point. Does it support your thesis?

Remember to give **equal weight** to each topic.

Summary statement in last topic paragraph should relate back to thesis statement to lead towards a conclusion.

Conclusion: Use summary statements from each topic paragraph to demonstrate that the conclusion you have reached has been well-supported. The conclusion should restate the central point of your thesis and offer a tentative direction for future consideration.

DO NOT ADD ANY NEW MATERIAL IN YOUR FINAL PARAGRAPH

For more information, visit or call your nearest Rutgers Learning Center, or visit our website:<http://rlc.rutgers.edu>

Camden
Armitage 231
856/225-6442

College Ave
Kreeger LRC
732/932-1443

Cook/Douglass
Loree 124
732/932-1660

Livingston
Tillett 111
732/445-0986

Newark
Conklin 126
973/353-5608