

## 5-PARAGRAPH ESSAY STRUCTURE – VISUAL OUTLINE

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- **Hook** (general statements, quotes, pop culture references, personal anecdote, ...)  
*“Modern human society has to deal with many serious problems, such as crime, poverty ...”*
- **Narrowing of your topic** (move from general information towards more specific ideas)  
*“One of the most persistent problems for communities has been the management of trash...”*  
( → Especially for research papers: provide additional background info about the topic, special terms, definitions, etc.)  
*“Recycling is a publicly funded program that turns trash into useable materials...”*
- **Thesis Statement** (states main idea of essay, suggests topic for each body paragraph, has parallel structure)  
*“Recycling programs should not be funded because (1) they are ineffective, (2) cost too much money, and (3) disturb the peace in the community.”*

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- **Topic sentence** (overview over the first main argument/supporting point)  
*“One reason for why recycling programs should not be funded is that they are ineffective.”*
- **Explain topic sentence** (rephrase and/or provide important background info)  
*“A publicly funded program must achieve its stated goal; if this is not the case, then they should be eliminated.”*
- **Provide evidence** (use sources, logical arguments, or personal anecdotes)  
*“According to John Skolnick in his article Trash is Bad Business, most recycling programs fail to turn less than 10% of trash into recyclable materials.”*
- **Explain evidence** (rephrase and/or provide important background info)  
*“In other words, recycling programs fail to produce useable materials that...”*
- (if applicable) **provide second piece of evidence**  
*“In his book Recycling – A Myth, author Daniel Steeler provides more evidence for why recycling is not living up to its promises.”*
- **Concluding remark** (Sum up the main idea of the paragraph)  
*“Therefore, recycling programs are not effective and should not be funded...”*

→ **Repeat** as above, covering your next supporting point

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- Wrap up your paper with a review of the main supporting points, or the general idea  
*“In summary, recycling programs are not worthwhile public projects because they are ineffective, consume excessive amounts of resources and cause disturbances in the community.”*
- **Move away from the specifics of your paper** (make general statements, provide brief suggestions for alternatives, suggest future paper topics, or return to the way in which you opened your introduction)