

Basic Outline for a Five-Paragraph Essay

with TEEL-Con Body Paragraphs

Below are the components of a well written TEL-Con paragraph:
Topic Sentence: the main idea of the paragraph
Explain: elaborate on your topic sentence by specifying the details
Examples: provide concrete evidence to support your topic sentence (quote or show details)
Link: discuss why your example supports your topic sentence.
Conclusion: create a sentence that finalizes an idea/paragraph.

Title (not bold, underlined, or a different font style and size, informative and creative)

I. Introduction (three to four sentences)

- A. Attention getter (a question, fact, quote, anecdote, etc.)
- B. Transitional sentence (connect your attention getter to the main idea of your essay. If your topic is textual, mention the author and title.)
- C. Thesis (What is the topic of your essay?)

II. First topic (seven to ten sentences)

- A. Topic sentence (In general, what is the main idea of this paragraph. Do NOT ask a question or use a quote for the first sentence of a paragraph.)
- B. Explanation (Explain the topic in more detail to prepare for your specific example.)
- C. Evidence/Example (Use a specific example from a quote or passage to support your topic.)
- D. Link (Explain why your example supports the topic.)
- E. Evidence/Example (Use another specific example from a quote or passage to further support your topic).
- F. Link (Explain why your example supports the topic.)
- G. Conclude (Transition to the next idea. Do NOT use a quote or ask a question for the last sentence of a paragraph.)

III. Second topic (seven to ten sentences)

- A. Topic sentence (In general, what is the main idea of this paragraph. Do NOT ask a question or use a quote for the first sentence of a paragraph.)
- B. Explanation (Explain the topic in more detail to prepare for your specific example.)
- C. Evidence/Example (Use a specific example from a quote or passage to support your topic.)
- D. Link (Explain why your example supports the topic.)
- E. Evidence/Example (Use another specific example from a quote or passage to further support your topic).
- F. Link (Explain why your example supports the topic.)
- G. Conclude (Transition to the next idea. Do NOT use a quote or ask a question for the last sentence of a paragraph.)

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IV. Third topic (seven to ten sentences)

- A. Topic sentence (In general, what is the main idea of this paragraph. Do NOT ask a question or use a quote for the first sentence of a paragraph.)
- B. Explanation (Explain the topic in more detail to prepare for your specific example.)
- C. Evidence/Example (Use a specific example from a quote or passage to support your topic.)
- D. Link (Explain why your example supports the topic.)
- E. Evidence/Example (Use another specific example from a quote or passage to further support your topic).
- F. Link (Explain why your example supports the topic.)
- G. Conclude (Transition to the next idea. Do NOT use a quote or ask a question for the last sentence of a paragraph.)

V. Conclusion (three to four sentences)

- A. Restate or rephrase your thesis statement. (Tie your points together and make an overall statement.)
- B. Resolve the issue (Do NOT present any new information in the conclusion.)
- C. Extend your topic into the larger community. (How does this topic affect society?)