

Five-Paragraph Essay Diagram

A good introductory paragraph

- · is organized from general to specific.
 - states the main idea of the essay.
 - ends with a specific thesis statement that tells the reader what to expect in each body paragraph.

Good body paragraphs

- are each about one main idea that supports the main idea of the essay.
- are in the same order as they are mentioned in the thesis statement.
- begin with the topic sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph.
- contain detailed supporting sentences that back up the paragraph's topic sentence.

A good concluding paragraph

- is organized from specific to general.
- begins with a restatement of the thesis statement.
- ends with a general statement that relates the topic of the essay to broader terms.