

Five-Paragraph Essay

Start with your main idea or topic.

Use _____ from _____

You ONLY Need Three Ideas.

- Three _____ your _____ is _____.
- And two _____ for each of your _____ (Remember to _____, not tell.)

Each paragraph must include:

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-
-

Introductory Paragraph

Start with a topic sentence that uses the *key words* from the prompt. Then write *three reasons* that prove the topic sentence is true.

Now end with a conclusion

Remember, each paragraph must have a concluding sentence.

Finish with a sentence that _____ your _____.

e.g. "In Shakespeare's King Lear, the storm upon the heath symbolizes Lear's descent into madness," using different words. Becomes: "The Storm in Lear's mind is just as powerful as the one raging around him on the heath."

Example of Introductory Paragraph:

(_____)In Shakespeare's King Lear, the storm upon the heath symbolizes Lear's descent into madness. (_____)Lear ends up in the storm because of his own poor choices and his first inkling that he is going mad is when he realizes his poor choices have left him homeless and friendless. (_____) Lear remains in the storm despite good council to come in out of the cold, just as he holds firm in his decision to banish Cordelia in spite of Kent's warnings that he is acting unreasonably. (_____) The storm threatens King Lear's body in the same way his daughters threaten his pride, the loss of which propels his madness. (_____)The storm in Lear's mind is just as powerful as the one raging around him on the heath.

Order your points _____ whenever possible.

Body Paragraphs (_____ total)

- _____ - *Restate each of the ideas in your introduction as the topic sentence for each body paragraph.*

e.g.: Lear ends up in the storm because of his own poor choices and his first inkling that he is going mad is when he realizes his poor choices have left him homeless and friendless.

King Lear ends up in the middle of both a physical and metaphorical storm because of his poor choices early in the play.

- _____ (x2)
- _____ (x2)
- _____ / _____

Example of Body Paragraph 1:

(_____) King Lear ends up in the middle of both a physical and metaphorical storm because of his poor choices early in the play. (_____) In Act 1, Scene 1, Lear chooses to divide his kingdom based on which of his three daughters can profess the greatest love for him. This a foolish and ill-suited test and the results are disastrous; his elder daughters flatter him and end up with the kingdom while his youngest daughter, who loves him most, refuses to “play” and is disinherited. (_____) When Kent, a loyal advisor to Lear, tells Lear that he has made a grave mistake, Lear rails against reason and Cordelia, “Peace, Kent/Come not between the dragon and his wrath. [...] So be my grave my peace as here I give her father’s heart from her.” (I.i. 120-1&124-5) (_____) He will not listen to Kent and severs the ties between himself and Cordelia completely. This choice is the beginning of his tempestuous journey. (_____) In the same way, when Lear’s other daughters refuse to accommodate his hundred “knights and squires” in their homes, he curses them and chooses to wander into the coming storm rather than compromise with either of them. (_____) Goneril, his eldest daughter, points out that, “ ’Tis his own blame; hath put him from rest.” (II.iv.287) (_____) While she may be a devious character in general, she is correct that Lear did have a choice and, though he heard the storm coming, refused to listen to reason. (_____) Lear makes both the choice that sends his life into a hurricane-force descent into madness and the choice that leaves him literally outside in the rain.

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

(_____ : _____)

Example of Conclusion Paragraph:

We can see Lear’s inner turmoil and journey into madness clearly reflected in the elements of the storm in Act 3. In the physical storm, his poor choices lead him, his stubbornness keeps him from turning around, and his well-being is threatened by elements out of his control. In the play, Lear’s own choices begin the events that will lead to his madness, he does not listen to the wise council of those who would show him reason, and his well-being is threatened by the schemes of his powerful daughters. Lear himself recognizes the parallel between the terrible gal and his own tumultuous life when he wails to the gods, “...here I stand, your slave,/a poor, infirm, weak, and despise’d old man,/But yet I call you servile ministers,/That will with two pernicious daughters join/Your high-engender’d battle ‘gainst a head/so old and white as this. O, ho! ’tis foul.”

5 Paragraph Essay Template

Introductory Paragraph

Thesis statement:	
Point 1:	
Point 2:	
Point 3:	
Conclusion	

Body Paragraph 1

Topic Sentence (Point 1):	
Idea/Quote/ Fact:	
Analysis:	
Idea/Quote/ Fact:	
Analysis:	
Conclusion/ Transition:	

Body Paragraph 2

Topic Sentence (Point 1):	
Idea/Quote/ Fact:	
Analysis:	
Idea/Quote/ Fact:	
Analysis:	
Conclusion/ Transition:	

Body Paragraph 3

Topic Sentence (Point 1):	
Idea/Quote/ Fact:	
Analysis:	
Idea/Quote/ Fact:	
Analysis:	
Conclusion/ Transition:	

Conclusion

Topic Sentence (re-state main point):	
Re-view point 1	
Re-view point 2	
Re-view point 3	
Conclusion/ Clincher	