

**THE FIVE-PART ESSAY:
Two common variations on the pattern**

Pattern 1:

1. Introduction, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - One or more audience-engaging sentences
 - A specific, clear, arguable, supportable thesis statement
 - One or more sentences that develop and explain your thesis in more detail
2. Supporting Paragraph #1, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - A topic sentence beginning the paragraph that further develops the thesis
 - At least one specific example that supports the topic sentence
 - A sentence that explains the significance of this example to your thesis statement
3. Supporting Paragraph #2, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - A topic sentence beginning the paragraph that further develops the thesis and that is linked to the previous paragraph through transitions, word choice, etc.
 - At least one specific example that supports the topic sentence
 - A sentence that explains the significance of this example to your thesis statement
4. Supporting Paragraph #3, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - A topic sentence beginning the paragraph that further develops the thesis and that is linked to the previous paragraph through transitions, word choice, etc.
 - At least one specific example that supports the topic sentence
 - A sentence that explains the significance of this example to your thesis statement
5. Conclusion, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - A sentence restating the main idea of the thesis, but in different words
 - A sentence summarizing the main ideas in the supporting paragraphs
 - A sentence that presents a new perspective on the information in the rest of the essay that has broader implications than those discussed earlier in the essay, but which leaves the reader with something new to consider about the topic in light of the argument

Pattern 2:

1. Introduction, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - One or more audience-engaging sentences
 - A specific, clear, arguable, supportable thesis statement
 - One or more sentences that explain your thesis by providing the background to your argument

2. Evidence Paragraph 1, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - A topic sentence beginning the paragraph that introduces the first piece of evidence in your argument and links back to your thesis (normally, you should present your weakest piece of evidence here)
 - At least one specific example that supports the topic sentence
 - A concluding sentence that accounts for an opposing view, but presents it in such a way that it does not completely refute your own argument

3. Evidence Paragraph 2, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - A topic sentence beginning the paragraph that introduces the second piece of evidence in your argument and links back to your thesis
 - At least one specific example that supports the topic sentence
 - A concluding sentence that accounts for an opposing view, but presents it in such a way that it does not completely refute your own argument

4. Evidence Paragraph 3, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - A topic sentence beginning the paragraph that introduces the third, and normally strongest, piece of evidence in your argument and links back to your thesis
 - At least one specific example that supports the topic sentence
 - A concluding sentence that accounts for an opposing view, but presents it in such a way that it does not completely refute your own argument

5. Conclusion, at least 3-5 sentences, includes
 - A restatement, in different words, of the thesis and a summary of the evidence and counter arguments presented in the rest of your paper
 - And/or a new perspective on the information in the rest of the essay that has broader implications than those discussed earlier in the essay, but which leaves the reader with something new to consider about the topic in light of the argument