



TIP

## How to Write a Good Essay

Learn the basics on how to write an essay, or dig deeper for tips on different ways to craft a stronger, more memorable piece.

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# How to Write a Good Essay

The steps for writing an essay are not complicated:

- 1 Make an outline**
- 2 Gather evidence to support your points**
- 3 Write a draft**
- 4 Revise it**
- 5 Print out your final draft**

For most people, the hardest part of writing an essay is knowing what to say. So the process begins with thinking and planning out what you need or want to say. This is where good planning really helps make it easier.

## 1 Make an Outline

Here is the structure of a typical essay:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Paragraph 1 | Main point (Introduction)   |
| Paragraph 2 | Supporting Point #1<br>a. example, or proof point<br>b. example, or proof point<br>c. example, or proof point |
| Paragraph 3 | Supporting Point #2<br>a. example, or proof point<br>b. example, or proof point<br>c. example, or proof point |
| Paragraph 4 | Supporting Point #3<br>a. example, or proof point<br>b. example, or proof point<br>c. example, or proof point |
| Paragraph 5 | Conclusion  |

## 2 Gather Evidence

You may already have the evidence to prove your Supporting Points and complete your outline. If not, you will need to do research to find the evidence that proves your points.

### 3 Write a Draft

Once your Outline is complete, it's time to start writing. Let's look at the sections of the essay more closely.

#### ***Introduction***

The job of the Introduction is to tell the reader what they are going to be reading about. Start with a sentence that clearly states what you are trying to say - the over-arching point you are trying to make. This is your thesis statement. Then write a couple of sentences that sketch out the three points you will be making that support your thesis statement.

#### ***Supporting Point #1***

Make your supporting point. Then provide evidence for your claim.

#### ***Supporting Point #2 & #3***

These paragraphs have the same structure as Supporting Point #1: Make your point and prove it.

#### ***Conclusion***

A good Conclusion summarizes your argument and states why it is important. A great Conclusion summarizes your argument, states why it is important, and then adds another thought, or question, that gives the reader something more to think about.

That's it! There's your rough draft.

### 4 Revise It

Print out your essay and get a red pen; it's time to mark things up. Read through your rough draft carefully. Are you convinced? Are there any better points that can make your argument stronger? Is your evidence for your points believable?

Does your argument make sense and flow smoothly? Are there any points that are fuzzy or unclear? Would a different word choice make a sentence easier to understand? Is everything spelled correctly?

### 5 Print Out Your Final Draft

Once you have read through your draft a couple of times and are satisfied with all your changes, it's time to check it thoroughly for typos, missed punctuation or any other small mistakes that will distract the reader. Check until you are certain everything is exactly the way you want it to be. Print it out.

Congratulations! That's how you write an essay!