



The Essay

**Tips and Techniques for Writing a
Standard 5-Paragraph Essay**



It's Not as Bad As You Think

- You do not have to be a wizard to learn to write excellent five paragraph essays.
- You might need some basic skill and practice.
- Basics to follow....

Format



- The five paragraph essay follows a defined format.
- The first paragraph introduces the topic or thesis and directs us to three main supporting subtopics.
- The second through fourth paragraphs are similar in format – they explore the subtopics.
- The final paragraph is the conclusion, which restates the main idea found in the intro. It also reminds the reader of the three main supporting ideas that were developed.

The Introductory Paragraph



- is the place in which the writer introduces the reader to the **topic**.
- is important to make this a clear and limited statement.
- is where the writer *grabs* the reader's attention.

The Main Body Paragraphs (3)



- These paragraphs each work to support the topic or thesis of the paper.
- Each paragraph needs to be complete, meaning that the sentences in each should be related to the single controlling idea of that paragraph.

The Conclusion



- The concluding paragraph re-states what was said in the introduction. It works as a summary of what was written in the previous 4 paragraphs. It is important to **restate** the topic and the three supporting ideas in an original and powerful manner, as this is the last chance you have to make your point.