

## Lesson Plan - Essay Writing

### Objectives

At the end of this lesson you should be able to:

1. Identify the introduction, body and conclusion of an essay.
2. Identify the thesis statement in essays.
3. Write an appropriate thesis statement for your essays.
4. State the format of an essay.
5. Write an effective introduction

**Supplies:** TheFormalEssay.docx  
access to youtube

### STEP 1:

Read *The Formal Essay*. It is an example of a academic essay often referred to as a 5-paragraph essay. Follow the directions and answer the questions. Complete pages 2 and 3 and answer the few questions.

### STEP 2:

The video below will give you a basic overview of the 5-paragraph essay.

#### How to write a five paragraph essay?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tim9oNx1clU&list=PLgqABeK\\_Jh5Yg\\_215OcJAbwqgmENeHYmh&index=95](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tim9oNx1clU&list=PLgqABeK_Jh5Yg_215OcJAbwqgmENeHYmh&index=95)

James in Canada does a great job explaining how to write an introduction. Watch his video (link below) and answer the following questions:

#### How to Write an Effective Essay: The Introduction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN6IOSMviS4&t=550s>

1. What are the possible ways to grab your reader's interest. **Surprising fact, anecdote, quote/proverb, joke, raise curiosity**
2. What are the W5s? **who, what, when, where, why, (how many, how often)**
3. What is a thesis statement? **The main idea of the essay**
4. What is his thesis statement? **Fighting is the only way to heal the world. (weak)**

### STEP 3:

A closer look at the thesis statement. Read page 4 in the document *The Formal Essay* and answer the questions on page 5.

Need a video to help better understand a thesis statement? Try this one and answer the questions on the next page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFp1uGTxo4Q>

1. According to Jenny in the video one needs to decide on three things in order to write a thesis statement:

- a. topic
- b. position
- c. evidence to support

2. What does she mean when she says the writer needs to *take a position*?

To take a stand, to have an opinion on one side or the other side but not both sides

3. Jenny claims that a good thesis statement needs to be:

- a. concise = short and sweet, short and to the point
- b. disputable = arguable
- c. coherent = stick together, are connected

4. What does she mean by *disputable*?

Something is disputable if it can be argued or debated

### **Jenny's thesis statement from the video**

#### **Initial thesis statement**

Brexit was driven by political frustration.

#### **After doing more research, thesis statement became more precise.**

The Brexit referendum result was driven by working-class frustration with the political elite, caused by austerity policies that have eroded public services and fragmented communities; the referendum offered an alternative to the status quo.

The above thesis statement is for an argumentative essay. The goal is to convince your reader of a claim or of the opinion you have on the topic.