

Please do not forget to name your sources! See: [Acknowledging Sources](#).

1. Introduction: “Tell them what you’re going to tell them” or your “road map”

A. Start with a powerful first sentence.

Depending on the conventions of your discipline, you can begin with an interesting question or fact, an analogy to a film or book, a personal anecdote related to the topic, etc.

B. Background: Tell them what scholars have discussed on the topic (They say X.) Or, say what is known about the subject thus far.

C. Tell them how you will contribute to/change the discussion with your argumentative thesis. (But, I say Y.)

D. Tell them how you will prove your thesis in the paper that follows

2., 3., 4. The Body: “Tell them” in three points (extending PEP)

Each paragraph begins with a topic sentence that relates **directly** to the thesis. The topic sentence is then supported with factual evidence, argumentative evidence or both (the most common form is to have three points of support for each topic sentence). This is the model for the "five paragraph essay," but you can extend this to as many points as you need to fill a given time frame for a presentation or a certain amount of pages for a written text.

Point 1	Point 2	Point 3
evidence or examples	evidence or examples	evidence or examples
evidence/examples	evidence/examples	evidence/examples
evidence/examples	evidence/examples	evidence/examples
Point/transition	Point/transition	Point/ transition

5. The Conclusion: “Tell them what you’ve told them”....and why it's important on a larger scale

A. Restate your thesis.

B. Summarize the most important points of the body. Do not introduce new information.

C. Answer "So what?" or "Who cares about your claims? What do they add to the discipline or to the world"

State why your arguments are important in the larger scheme of things: for other fields; for society; politics or the economy in general. (This should be one or two sentences.) Or, illustrate how your arguments allow for new research, making sure to be specific about the possible direction of future research.

D. End with a powerful sentence!

*If you look at any British or North American writing resource, you will probably come upon “how to write the 5 paragraph essay” which is taught from high school through graduate school. The five paragraph essay is typically practiced *ad nauseam*, but naturally, you can add the number of paragraphs in the body *ad infinitum*.

Four DIN A-4 pages = about a 10 minute talk without any spontaneous additions.

For more information, see:

<http://www.slideshare.net/marianogalan23/212-the-academic-essay>