**Five-paragraph Essay**

First decide what your writing topic should be. Read and research your topic, find out where you stand, find pros and cons, talk to your parents about your topic and discuss different angles, take notes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uSJEiNZ1rE>

1. Introduction – start with a hook to catch the reader´s attention <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rnq17dyxyu4&t=258s>

Hook: Inverted pyramid

Fact or statistic

Anecdote or personal experience

Rhetorical question

The bold pronouncement

In addition to the hook, the introduction should contain the main theme of the paper, where the points are introduced, e.g.

Point one

Point two

Point three and then a transition sentence/thesis statement – the last sentence of your introduction – claim (ein áskoðan, eitt sjónarmið) + reason/evidence (…tað er tí at…) = thesis statement

1. 1. Body paragraph – start with a topic sentence where you present point one and the evidence to support your point (quotes, stories, facts etc.) End your body paragraph with a transition sentence/clincher – a sentence that starts with a conclusional word (ultimately, thus, therefore, consequently etc.)
2. 2. Body paragraph – start with a topic sentence where you present point one and the evidence to support your point (quotes, stories, facts etc.) End your body paragraph with a transition sentence/clincher – a sentence that starts with a conclusional word (ultimately, thus, therefore, consequently etc.)
3. 3. Body paragraph – start with a topic sentence where you present point one and the evidence to support your point (quotes, stories, facts etc.) End your body paragraph with a transition sentence/clincher – a sentence that starts with a conclusional word (ultimately, thus, therefore, consequently etc.)
4. Conclusion – start with a conclusional word (in conclusion, lastly, ultimately etc.) + sum up your topic and thesis. Reaffirm your position and further explain the importance – why your ideas about the topic are correct, what you proved in the previous paragraphs, a summary of your conclusions that ties back to your introduction.

**An example of a five-paragraph essay written by a 12-year old boy:**

Mistakes My Parents Make That I Will Not

My parents make a lot of mistakes that I will not. Parents leave their kids to make dinner, make them write five-paragraph essays, and make kids wait until they are sixteen to drive a car. If your parents don’t make you do any of that, you do not have to keep reading.

Parents should not leave their kids to make dinner because they cannot always handle it. Sometimes kids don’t know what they are doing. Sometimes the dinner does not turn out good. Usually, the kids give up, or the parents take over anyway.

Parents should not make kids write five paragraph essays. Most of the time kids are sulky and drag it out. Also, parents keep bugging them and make them sulkier. Five paragraph essays are useless anyway and cause contention for no reason.

Parents should not make their kids wait until they are sixteen to drive a car. Most kids want to drive sooner. Some kids are capable of driving sooner. Parents would not have to drive their kids everywhere.

I know I will not make these mistakes when I grow up. My kids will have dinner served to them every night or maybe they will help with dinner, but they won’t have to do it all. My kids will not have to do very much writing at all unless they want to. I will let my kids drive as soon as they can reach the pedals and see over the steering wheel. The world will be nicer if parents would just let kids do what they want.