

ORDER UP! WRITING AN ESSAY

One way of writing a five paragraph essay is to "Say what you're going to say, say it three ways, and then say what you said." An outline for this kind of essay would look like this:

1. Introductory Paragraph – What's this about?
 - a. First idea overview
 - b. Second idea overview
 - c. Third idea overview

2. Body Paragraph- first idea
 - a. Supporting details
 - b. Supporting details
 - c. Supporting details

3. Body Paragraph- transition to second idea
 - a. Supporting details
 - b. Supporting details
 - c. Supporting details

4. Body Paragraph- transition to third idea
 - a. Supporting details
 - b. Supporting details
 - c. Supporting details

5. Conclusion paragraph – What was this about?
 - a. First idea summary
 - b. Second idea summary
 - c. Third idea summary

Like a skeleton, this outline format provides a structure and support for the "meat" of the essay.