The Five-Paragraph Academic Essay

**Introductory paragraph:** prepares reader for thesis statement

- Anecdote, story, or personal experience
  - Factual summary
  - Description or definition
  - Appropriate quotation
  - Startling fact or statistic

**Thesis statement = Topic + Focus:** states main idea of essay

**Body paragraph #1:** provides support for thesis

- **Topic sentence:** states main idea of paragraph

  **Supporting details**
  - Facts and statistics
  - Personal knowledge and experience
  - Expert testimony

**Body paragraph #2:** provides support for thesis

- **Topic sentence:** states main idea of paragraph

  **Supporting details**
  - Facts and statistics
  - Personal knowledge and experience
  - Expert testimony

**Body paragraph #3:** provides support for thesis

- **Topic sentence:** states main idea of paragraph

  **Supporting details**
  - Facts and statistics
  - Personal knowledge and experience
  - Expert testimony

**Concluding paragraph:** gives the essay a feeling of completion

- Restates thesis and major points
- Makes predictions or speculations
- Calls readers to action