

THE MULTIPARAGRAPH ESSAY TERMINOLOGY

ESSAY

A piece of writing that gives your thoughts (commentary) about a subject. All essays you will write in this unit will have at least 5 paragraphs: an introduction, 2 body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.

INTRODUCTION (also called the introductory paragraph)

The first paragraph in an essay. It includes the thesis, most often as the last sentence of the introductory paragraph.

BODY PARAGRAPH

A middle paragraph in an essay. It develops a point you want to make that supports your thesis.

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH (also called the conclusion)

The last paragraph in your essay. It should "draw a conclusion" for the reader by reflecting on the importance of the thesis and information found in the body paragraphs, add final commentary about your subject, or give a personal statement about your subject.

Your conclusion is all commentary and does NOT include concrete detail. It does NOT repeat key words from your paper and ESPECIALLY NOT from your thesis and introductory paragraph. It gives a finished -feeling to your whole essay.

THESIS

A sentence with a subject and opinion (also called commentary). This comes somewhere in your introductory paragraph and most often at the end.

PRE-WRITING

The process of getting your concrete details down on paper before you organize your essay into paragraphs. You can use any or all of the following: bubble clusters, spider diagrams, outlines, line clustering, or columns.

CONCRETE DETAILS (CD)

Specific details that form the backbone or core of your body paragraphs. Synonyms for concrete detail include facts, specifics, examples, descriptions, illustrations, support, proof, evidence, quotations, paraphrasing, or plot references.

COMMENTARY (CM)

Your opinion or comment about something; not concrete detail. Synonyms include opinion, insight, analysis, interpretation, inference, personal response, feelings, evaluation, explication, and reflection.

TOPIC SENTENCE

The first sentence in a body paragraph. This must have a subject and opinion (commentary) for the paragraph. It does the same thing for a body paragraph that the thesis does for the whole essay.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

The last sentence in a body paragraph. It is all commentary, does not repeat key words, and gives a finished feeling to the paragraph.

SHAPING THE ESSAY

The step that is done after prewriting and before the first draft of an essay; it is an outline of your thesis, topic sentences, concrete details, and commentary ideas.

FIRST DRAFT

The first version of your essay (also called the rough draft).

FINAL DRAFT

The final version of your essay.

PEER RESPONSE

Written responses and reactions to a partner's paper.

CHUNK

One sentence of concrete detail and 2 sentences of commentary. It is the smallest unified group of thoughts that you can write.

WEAVING

Blending concrete details and commentary in a body paragraph. You can do this after you master the format.

RATIO (1:2)

The ratio of one part concrete detail (CD) to two parts commentary (CM).

WORD COUNTS

The minimum length per paragraph