

The Three Paragraph Essay

Introductory Paragraph

The introductory paragraph should also include the thesis statement, a kind of mini-outline for the essay. This is where the writer grabs the reader's attention. It tells the reader what the paper is about. The last sentence of this paragraph must also include a transitional "hook" which moves the reader to the first paragraph of the body of the essay.

Body - Second Paragraph

This paragraph should include the strongest argument, most significant example, cleverest illustration, or an obvious beginning point. The subject for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This subject should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transition that signals the reader that this is the final major point being made in this essay.

Concluding - Third Paragraph

The third paragraph is the summary paragraph. It is important to restate the thesis and the supporting idea in an original and powerful way as this is the last chance the writer has to convince the reader of the validity of the information presented.

This paragraph should include the following:

- an allusion to the pattern used in the introductory paragraph,
- a restatement of the thesis statement, using some of the original language or language that "echoes" the original language. (The restatement, however, must not be a duplicate thesis statement.)
- a summary of the main point from the body of the essay.
- a final statement that gives the reader signals that the discussion has come to an end.

An example of a Three Paragraph Essay can be found at:

<http://www.taft.cc.ca.us/newTC/Academic/LiberalArts/OWL/SAMPTHRE.HTML>

Assign # _____ Name _____ Due Date _____ Pts. _____

Three Paragraph Essay Scoresheet

Criteria	Pts. Poss.	Pts. Earn.
The initial paragraph of the essay summarizes what the piece is about.	20	
The second paragraph gives the writer's clear opinion on the subject.	20	
The third paragraph provides a conclusion and ties the essay together.	20	
The essay is clear and easy to read.	10	
The essay is free of spelling errors.	10	
The essay is free of punctuation errors.	10	
The essay contains correct grammar usage.	10	
TOTAL	100	

Notes: