

## **The Five Paragraph Essay**

### **Step 1: Analyze the question**

What specifically is the question asking? Look for key words such as:

*Discuss* means "to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument, to present in some detail."

*Show* means "to point out, to set forth clearly a position or idea by stating it and giving data to support it."

*Explain* means "To make plain or understandable, to give reasons for or causes of, to show the logical development or relationships of"

### **Step 2: Organize the Essay**

Organize the information that you want to use in your essay through the use of an outline.

### **Step 3: Write the Introduction:**

State what the essay is about, or what you are trying to prove. The easiest way to do this is to restate the question. Maintain a third person perspective and refrain from using statements such as "this essay will be about..." Introduce the topics of each of the body paragraphs which will follow.

### **Step 4: Write the Body Paragraphs**

Write the first body paragraph. Be sure to include all of the following components: topic sentence, supporting evidence in the body sentences, and a closing sentence. Follow this same format as you write the second and third body paragraphs. Compose additional paragraphs, if necessary in order to answer the essay question.

### **Step 5: Write the Conclusion:**

Summarize the subject of the essay. You can often do this by restating the question in a different way. Explain what you concluded about the essay question. Summarize how the information in the body of your essay proves your point.