

# The Five-Paragraph Essay

## Part 1. Thesis Statement

There are five parts to a five-paragraph essay (also called a composition). The first part is the beginning paragraph, which contains the **THESIS STATEMENT**.

The thesis statement is one of the most important parts of the essay. It is similar to a topic sentence in a paragraph, except that it will serve as the “topic sentence” for a full composition. It will also name your three main points in the sentence.

For example:

A. I enjoy reading mysteries, romance books, and young adult novels.

Those three main points (mysteries, romances, and YA novels) would each be discussed in a separate paragraph in the composition.

B. The best comedy on television today is *The Big Bang Theory*, due to its unusual theme, comic writing, and excellent acting.

C. New York City is an good vacation destination for sightseeing, Broadway shows, and shopping.

Ideas for paragraph details:

1. **Sightseeing:** Fun places to visit -- Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Yankee Stadium, etc.

2. **Broadway shows:** Favorite shows I have seen, best actors, and autograph seeking.

3. **Shopping:** Best areas to shop (Fifth Avenue, Greenwich Village) and special stores (Bloomingdale’s, FAO Schwarz).

## \*\*\* YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Do 1 - 7 below:

On a sheet of notebook paper, write a thesis statement for each of these topics. You may change the wording of a sentence, if necessary.

1. My favorite TV show (or channel) is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. My favorite author (or book or book series) is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Three areas that need change in our school are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is an excellent movie (team or music/rock group) because it (or they) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. A good parent (or teacher or coach) should \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Write your own thesis statement on another topic of your choice.
7. Now choose one of those thesis statements you wrote and write some ideas you would put in each of the three paragraphs, such as the way NYC is described above in C in examples 1 - 3.