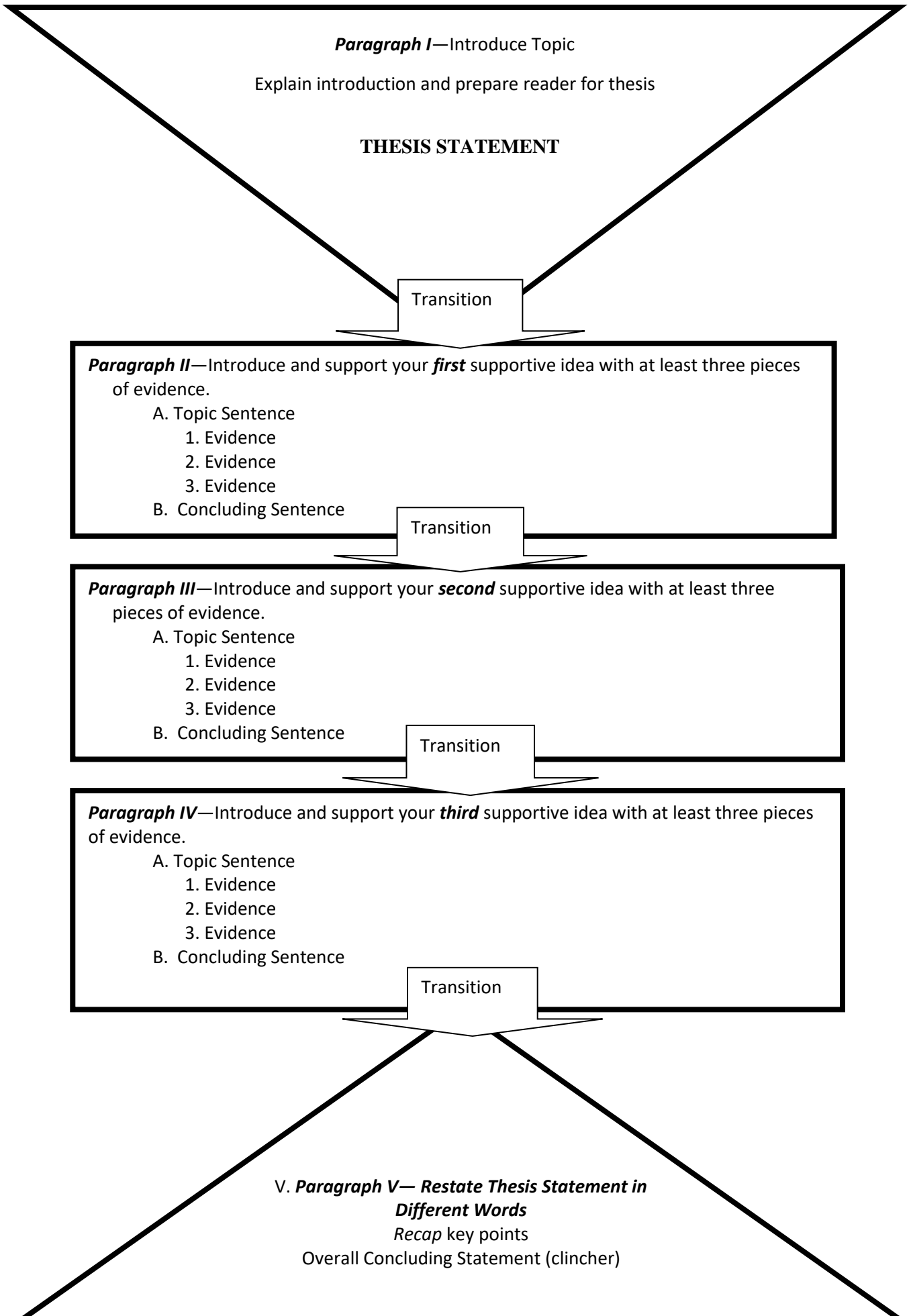


ORGANIZATION: Five Paragraph Essay Graphic Organizer



ORGANIZATION: Essay Outline Format

- I. Opening paragraph
 - 1. Introductory sentence_____
 - 2. The next few sentences should explain the introductory sentence and prepare the reader for the thesis statement
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - 3. **THESIS STATEMENT**_____

- II. Second paragraph
 - 1. Introductory sentence starts with a transition from the previous paragraph and then addresses the first supportive (a.) statement

 - a. First piece of evidence_____
 - b. Second piece of evidence_____
 - c. Third piece of evidence_____
 - 2. Concluding statement_____

- III. Third paragraph
 - 1. Introductory sentence starts with a transition from the previous paragraph and then addresses the second supportive (b.) statement

 - a. First piece of evidence_____
 - b. Second piece of evidence_____
 - c. Third piece of evidence_____
 - 2. Concluding statement_____

- IV. Fourth paragraph
 - 1. Introductory sentence starts with a transition from the previous paragraph and then addresses the third supportive (c.) statement

 - a. First piece of evidence_____
 - b. Second piece of evidence_____
 - c. Third piece of evidence_____
 - 2. Concluding statement_____

- V. Conclusion paragraph
 - 1. Introductory sentence *restates the idea from the thesis* in different words

 - 2. Summarize key points
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - 3. Final concluding statement (clincher)

ORGANIZATION: General Suggestions

Introduction

The introduction is the first paragraph in your essay, and it should accomplish a few specific goals.

1. Capture the reader's interest - It is a good idea to start your essay with an interesting statement in order to get the reader's attention.
 - Avoid starting out with a boring line like *"In this essay I will explain why Rosa Parks was an important figure."*
 - Instead, try something like *"A Michigan museum recently paid \$492,000 for an old, dilapidated bus from Montgomery, Alabama."*
2. Introduce the topic - The next few sentences should explain your introductory statement and prepare the reader for your thesis statement.
 - *"The old yellow bus was reported to be the very one that sparked the civil rights movement, when a young woman named Rosa Parks..."*
3. Make a claim or express your opinion in a thesis sentence - Your thesis sentence should provide your specific assertion and convey clearly your point of view.
 - *"In refusing to surrender her seat to a white man, Rosa Parks inspired a courageous freedom movement that lives on, even today."*

Thesis

The thesis statement tells the reader the topic of the essay, and what point you, the author, will be making.

How to formulate a good, solid thesis statement:

- A thesis statement should only be one sentence
- It should appear in the introduction paragraph of any paper
- It should demonstrate the central idea of the paper
- A thesis statement must be specific (a thesis that is too general is not strong)

The thesis should not express just your opinion, but your informed, defensible conclusion (your paper will ultimately support that conclusion)

Body

The body of the essay will include three paragraphs, each limited to one main idea that supports your thesis. You should state your idea, then back it up with at least three sentences of evidence or examples. Each body paragraph should end with a mini-conclusion that concludes the idea in that paragraph.

Example of a main idea:

"It took incredible courage for an African American woman to make such a bold stance in 1955 Alabama."

Offer at least three pieces of evidence to support this statement:

"This act took place in an era when African Americans could be arrested and face severe retribution for committing the most trivial acts of defiance."

Conclusion

The fifth paragraph is your conclusion. The conclusion paragraph begins with a restatement of the topic, issue, or problem that was identified in the thesis statement. The conclusion summarizes the most important elements of the essay, without just repeating what has already been stated. The conclusion paragraph ends with a clincher (a sentence or two that bring your argument to a satisfying, convincing conclusion).

Transitions

REFERENCE: SIX TRAITS +1 OF EFFECTIVE WRITING

Use transition words and phrases to connect each new paragraph to the previous paragraph.
Sample transition words include:

to begin with; moreover; in fact; on the whole; furthermore; as a result; for this reason; similarly; likewise; it follows that; naturally; by comparison; in addition; in contrast; in conclusion

Review and Revise

Once you complete the first draft of your essay, it is a good idea to review your thesis statement, then read your essay to see if it flows well. You might find that the supporting paragraphs are strong, but they do not address the exact focus of your thesis. Simply rewrite your thesis statement to fit your essay's body more accurately. By doing this, you will ensure that every sentence in your essay supports, proves, or reflects your thesis.

Things to Avoid:

- Do not use contractions.
- Do not use first person pronouns such as "I" "me" "my."
- Do not use second person pronouns such as "you" "your" "yours."
- Do not engage in personal stories (stories of your own life experiences, or the experiences of friends, family, and so on)
- Do not begin sentences with conjunctions: but, and, or, nor, for, so, yet.
- Do not pose any questions to your reader. This means, quite literally, not to use questions. Make statements instead.
- Avoid any form of direct address to the reader, such as "think about the fact that . . ."
- Avoid too casual of a prose style, such as sentences that begin with words like "well, sure, now, yes, no."