

## Basic Essay Skeleton

**Directions:** If you follow these directions, you will write a good essay. The first step is to write the thesis sentence. The second step is to write the introduction sentence. The third step is to write the definition sentence. At that time, the first paragraph is complete. Then, complete the essay skeleton and make sure you have (at least) the proper number of sentences. The final step is to copy the sentences from the skeleton onto a clean sheet of lined paper. Remember to indent each paragraph at least half an inch and to check for spelling or punctuation errors. Include your name, class and hour, and the date in the upper right-hand corner. The title should be centered on the top line of the final copy.

### I. First Paragraph (three sentences)

Introduction sentence (this sentence introduces the subject of the essay to the reader.)

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Definition sentence (this sentence defines the most important term used in the thesis sentence.)

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**THESIS SENTENCE** (this sentence is the backbone of the paper. It consists of the statement you want to prove and three reasons why that statement is true.)

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### II. Second Paragraph (four sentences)

First topic sentence (this sentence consists of the statement you are trying to prove and the first reason why that statement is true.)

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Three supporting sentences (these three sentences support, explain, or give examples why the first topic sentence is true.)

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**III. Third Paragraph (four sentences)**

Second topic sentence (this sentence consists of the statement you are trying to prove and the second reason why that statement is true.)

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Three supporting sentences (these three sentences support, explain, or give examples why the second topic sentence is true.)

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**IV. Fourth Paragraph (four sentences)**

Third topic sentence (this sentence consists of the statement you are trying to prove and the third reason why that statement is true.)

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Three supporting sentences (these three sentences support, explain, or give examples why the third topic sentence is true.)

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**V. Conclusion Paragraph (four sentences)**

Summary sentences (these are three sentences that summarize the three ideas presented in the second, third, and fourth paragraphs. Do not include any topic sentences.)

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**Conclusion sentence** (this sentence is the thesis sentence re-stated or it is a different version of the thesis. It can also be a deep thought on the subject of the essay. The conclusion sentence is always part of the fifth paragraph and it is the last sentence in the essay.)

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