

Recipe for a Successful 5 paragraph Essay

Prewriting:

Step 1: Read the entire question. Be sure that you understand it.

Step 2: Find the topic question. Reword it as a statement. Make it your thesis statement.

Step 3: Take two minutes and brainstorm as many support points as you can. Pick the three strongest points and put them in the order you will discuss them in the paper.

Writing:

A 5 paragraph essay consists of an introduction, three body paragraphs which SUPPORT your thesis with abundant information, and a conclusion.

The Introduction

An introduction needs to fulfill three requirements. It normally does so in two to four sentences.

1. The first sentence is a broad introduction to the topic. If you are writing about literature, you must mention the author and the title of the work in this sentence or the second sentence.
2. Your second sentence is your thesis sentence. It takes a stand. It tells the reader what you will be proving or discussing in the rest of the paper.
3. Your third sentence previews your three points, examples, or reasons.

The Body

A good body paragraph consists of between 5 and 8 sentences.

1. The first sentence is a transition AND a topic sentence. It restates your first point, example or reason as indicated in your introduction.
2. Your second, third, fourth (and possibly additional) sentences EXPLAIN your topic sentence with reasons, examples or facts. If you are writing about literature, you will refer back to the story. While you should not retell the entire story, you must very briefly summarize the scene so that an unfamiliar reader can make sense of it.
3. Your final sentence ties the entire paragraph back to the thesis. It shows the reader how this paragraph supports the thesis.

The Conclusion

A good conclusion is a mirror image of the introduction. As such, it fulfills three requirements, normally in two to four sentences.

1. The first sentence REVIEWS your three main points, examples or reasons in words similar to, but not identical to the introduction.
2. The second sentence restates the thesis in words similar to the introduction.
3. The third sentence is a summary of your entire paper.

Common thesis problems

- a. TAKE A STAND. Don't look at both sides of an argument. Pick one side and defend it.
- b. Don't use first or second person: "I think... I feel... I believe" weaken your thesis.
- c. Be brief. Don't keep talking hoping you'll say something that the teacher likes. Say what you have to say in AS FEW WORDS AS POSSIBLE. Never use two words where one will do.
- d. Don't try to impress the teacher with vocabulary for the sake of vocabulary. If the word fits, use it. Don't fish for a word. It won't impress anyone.

A lighter look at 40 Writing Rules

1. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid clichés like the plague (they're old hat).
6. Also, always avoid common, continuous connotations through alliteration.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Parenthetical remarks, however relevant, are, in most cases, unnecessary.
9. Also, too, never ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
12. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. One should never generalize.
15. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
16. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
17. One –word sentences? Eliminate!
18. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
19. The passive voice is to be ignored.
20. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary.
21. Never use a big word that becomes a floccinaucinihilipilification in your paper.
22. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
23. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth-shaking ideas.
24. Do not overuse quotations. As Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
25. If you heard it once, you heard it a thousand times; resist exaggerations. Not one writer in a million can use them correctly.
26. Puns are for children, not for groan readers.
27. Who needs rhetorical questions?
28. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.
29. A pronoun must agree with their antecedents.
30. Mak shur yu spel ur words correctly.
31. capitalize all appropriate words northampton school district tenth grade papers.
32. You need to check you're usage problems, to.
33. Be sure
to double-space
between all lines.
34. Make better words by looking in the better word book.
35. Indent the beginning of a paragraph ½ inch.
36. Numbers less than ten should be written out as words.
37. 40, or any other number at the beginning of a sentence, is always written out as a word (s).
38. Proofread for inverse ordered words you in story.
39. Check for double-words.
40. Make sure the titles of works of art like the magazine "Time" and the poem The Raven are correctly punctuated.

(Clue: The whole (book, magazine, etc.) gets underlined. A part (article, short story, poem) belongs in quotations. Also note: punctuation belongs INSIDE the quotation marks.)

Name _____ Pd. _____ Score _____



Fahrenheit 451 Essay Rubric:

Criteria					Points
	1	2	3	4	
Focus	Other problems (i.e. does not identify a theme or identifies more than one theme	Defends both sides of a theme.	Somewhat identifies a theme.	Clearly identifies a theme.	
Content	Does not support focus in a meaningful manner or splits focus.	Barely supports focus with nominal references to book.	Supports focus without abundant and meaningful references to book.	Supports focus with abundant and meaningful references to book.	
Organization	Sequence of information is difficult to follow. No transitions or very few.	Reader has difficulty following work because student jumps or lacks transitions	Student presents information in logical sequence which reader can follow. Some transitions.	Information in logical, interesting sequence using appropriate transitions.	
Style	Weak or incorrect word choices. Repetitious sentence patterns.	Lackluster word choices. Minimal effort at varying sentence structure.	Adequate word choice and sentence variety.	Outstanding word choice and sentence variety (syntax).	
Conventions	Four or more spelling, grammar, punctuation errors.	Three spelling or grammar errors.	Two spelling or grammar errors.	None or one spelling or grammar exercises.	
Format	Did not follow 5 paragraph format	Major errors in: intro Body or Conclusion	Minor errors in intro Body or Conclusion	Virtually no errors in Intro Body Conclusion	
Total					

The Assignment:

In an interview, Ray Bradbury once stated that he was “not trying to predict the future, only prevent it.” Considering that the first version of this book appeared in 1953, shortly after World War II, at a time when technology as we know it was in its infancy, take any three examples from the book and demonstrate that Bradbury’s future has or has not arrived. Be sure to use the 5 paragraph essay in MLA format.

MLA Format

1. Type your paper in Times New Roman 12 point font with a one inch margin on all sides.
2. Use a header which includes your last name and page number.
3. The entire paper should be double spaced.
4. Use a heading which appears 1” from the top, left justified and contains the following information:
 - Line 1: Your name
 - Line 2: My name (Mrs. Savkova)
 - Line 3: Class title (Honors English 10 Period #)
 - Line 4: Due date (September , 2004).
5. Create an original title, which should be centered on the next line beneath the date.
6. To create a header:
 - a. Click on View in your toolbar.
 - b. Select Headers and Footers. A broken lined box will appear.
 - c. Type your last name in the box. Hit the space bar twice. Click on the first icon, which looks like a small page with a number sign (#) on it.
 - d. Highlight your name and the page number. Click on the right justify icon in the top tool bar.
 - e. Click on Close.