

5 Paragraph Essay: The Persuasive Argument

What is a 5 Paragraph Essay?

Five Paragraph was once taught as the most handy way to explain the writing process to composition students, the five paragraph essay helps students - both in school and in life - by giving them an easy-to-apply device for saying what needs to be said clearly and concisely. Since the vast majority of professors in composition classes teach and encourage the five paragraph essay, it is important for students to understand its structure and usefulness as well as its limitations.

The structure of the five paragraph essay is very simple. It consist of 5 different paragraphs

Introduction:

Introductory Paragraph

The introductory paragraph is the a kind of thesis statement, it's a short-outline for the paper, it tells the reader what the essay is about.

Thesis: Claim based on Reasons supported by Evidence.

Body Paragraph 1

The Body Paragraph one should start with a main topic sentence or opening statement, which lead the reader into the first piece of evidence to support your thesis statement. It is essentially a mini-thesis for the paragraph. Your argument must be properly cited to support your evidence. This evidence must all revolve around a single theme and should come in the form of a quotation. If you put too many different themes into one body paragraph, then the essay becomes confusing. Finally, finish the paragraph with a concluding sentence summing up only what you have discussed in that paragraph.

Body Paragraph 2

Almost same as Body Paragraph 1 , but you provide more evidence and cite them to support you point.

Body Paragraph 3

Same as Paragraph 1 and 2.

Conclusion

In conclusion you try to convince the reader that you have provided enough proof to support you points and sentences you have written in the upper paragraphs. You are allowed to be confident here, and you are even allowed to drop little extra pieces of information that make the reader think more than you previewed in the entire paper. It is also important to have a concluding mini-thesis in this paragraph. This statement is the closing tag-line, the "see what I just did" idea in every paper. An essay can be immaculately written, organized, and researched; however, without a conclusion, the reader is left dumbfounded, frustrated, confused.

The following is extracted for the website

<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/essay/table.html>

8/30/2006

Outline of the Five-Paragraph “Persuasive Argument” Essay

- 1. Introductory Paragraph**
 - a. Motivator**
 - b. Thesis Sentence**
 - c. Blueprint**

 - 2. First Body Paragraph**
 - a. 1st Reason – Topic Sentence**
 - b. Support Evidence
 - c. Support Evidence
 - d. Support Evidence

 - 3. Second Body Paragraph**
 - a. 2nd Reason - Topic Sentence**
 - b. Support Evidence
 - c. Support Evidence
 - d. Support Evidence

 - 4. Third Body Paragraph**
 - a. 3rd Reason - Topic Sentence**
 - b. Support Evidence
 - c. Support Evidence
 - d. Support Evidence

 - 5. Concluding Paragraph**
 - a. Reworded Thesis**
 - b. Clincher**
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Expanded Five Paragraph Essay - EXAMPLE

1. Introductory Paragraph

People are mistaken who believe the high Rockies are hard to climb. To the traveler who has passed through the plains of Kansas and eastern Colorado, the high Rockies might seem like a beautiful but forbidding wilderness, approachable by only the toughest mountaineers. It is true that the 53 peaks in the Rockies that soar over 14,000 feet in elevation should only be attempted by seasoned climbers. However, the peaks under 14,000 feet, the fourteeners, can be easily climbed by the average person. Actually, climbing Colorado's fourteeners is hardly a rugged experience because most of them take only a day to climb, involve no more than hiking and simple scrambling, and are conquered by many people each year.

2. First Body Paragraph

Surprisingly, unlike expeditions to Mt. McKinley or Mt. Everest, a climb up one of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks rarely takes more than a day. Pike's Peak, with the state's greatest base-to-summit elevation gain, is admittedly a strenuous climb, yet a retired college professor in his middle seventies makes the hike every day in the summer. A friend of mine, Carson Black, in a day, once climbed four fourteeners, three of which--Crestone Peak, Crestone Needle, and Kit Carson Peak--are the most challenging in the state. Even more revealing is the Bicentennial celebration by the Colorado Mountain Club. It planned to have members on the summit of every fourteener in the state on July 4, 1976. Only a handful of ascents took more than a day.

3. Second Body Paragraph

Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks are also fairly easy to climb because they require no special climbing techniques. The "knife-edge traverse" on Capitol Peak is probably the most infamous challenge, yet most hikers who carry ropes don't use them when they see the ridge is not very intimidating. The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is so simple to climb that a jeep made it in 1949, and one man "rode a 24-year-old bicycle to the summit in 1951" (Perry Eberhart and Philip Schmuck, *The Fourteeners*, p. 38). I personally saw two motorcycles on the 14,000-foot ridge between Mt. Democrat and Mt. Lincoln.

4. Third Body Paragraph

Another indication that climbing Colorado's highest peaks is not very difficult is the sheer number of people who succeed each summer. After descending from Torrey's Peak one weekend in August, I counted over seventy cars in the parking lot. On a week the previous August, I passed fifty people in various stages of climbing Mt. Elbert. Even years ago--in 1968--4226 people climbed Longs Peak (Paul W. Nesbit, *Longs Peak*, p. 68). Its parking lot today, to accommodate the number of climbers, is about a quarter-mile long.

5. Concluding Paragraph

If I've shattered your belief that Colorado's peaks are the domain of only bears and mountain men who look like bears, consider how Zebulon Pike might feel about Pikes Peak today. In 1806, he "predicted that the mountain would never be climbed" (Eberhart and Schmuck, p. 6). Now, via the cog railway or the toll highway, he could reach the summit without moving his legs.

Structure of a 5 Paragraph Argument

Introductory Paragraph

Motivator: People are mistaken who believe the high Rockies are hard to climb.

Thesis: Climbing Colorado's fourteeners is hardly a rugged experience...

Blueprint: ...most of them take only a day to climb, involve only hiking and simple scrambling, and are conquered by many people every year.

Introductory Paragraph

People are mistaken who believe the high Rockies are hard to climb. To the traveler who has passed through the plains of Kansas and eastern Colorado, the high Rockies might seem like a beautiful but forbidding wilderness, approachable by only the toughest mountaineers. It is true that the 53 peaks in the Rockies that soar over 14,000 feet in elevation should only be attempted by seasoned climbers. However, the peaks under 14,000 feet, the fourteeners, can be easily climbed by the average person. Actually, climbing Colorado's fourteeners is hardly a rugged experience because most of them take only a day to climb, involve no more than hiking and simple scrambling, and are conquered by many people each year.

First Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence A climb up one of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks rarely more than a day.

Support Evidence Old professor makes daily climbs.

Support Evidence A friend climbed four in one day.

Support Evidence Colorado Mountain Club climbed most of the state's fourteeners in a day to celebrate the Bicentennial.

Surprisingly, unlike expeditions to Mt. McKinley or Mt. Everest, a climb up one of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks rarely takes more than a day. Pike's Peak, with the state's greatest base-to-summit elevation gain, is admittedly a strenuous climb, yet a retired college professor in his middle seventies makes the hike every day in the summer. A friend of mine, Carson Black, in a day, once climbed four fourteeners, three of which--Crestone Peak, Crestone Needle, and Kit Carson Peak--are the most challenging in the state. Even more revealing is the Bicentennial celebration by the Colorado Mountain Club. It planned to have members on the summit of every fourteener in the state on July 4, 1976. Only a handful of ascents took more than a day.

Second Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks are easy to climb.

Support Evidence The "knife-edge traverse" on Capitol Peak is a challenge; ropes aren't usually used.

Support Evidence The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is simple to climb.

Support Evidence I personally saw two motorcycles on the 14,000-foot ridge.

Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks are also fairly easy to climb because they require no special climbing techniques. The "knife-edge traverse" on Capitol Peak is probably the most infamous challenge, yet most hikers who carry ropes don't use them when they see the ridge is not very intimidating. The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is so simple to climb that a jeep made it in 1949, and one man "rode a 24-year-old bicycle to the summit in 1951" (Perry Eberhart and Philip Schmuck, *The Fourteeners*, p. 38). I personally saw two motorcycles on the 14,000-foot ridge between Mt. Democrat and Mt. Lincoln.

Third Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence Many climb peaks each year.

Support Evidence I saw over seventy cars in the parking lot of Torrey's Peak.

Support Evidence I passed fifty people climbing Mt. Elbert.

Support Evidence In 1968, 4226 people climbed Longs Peak.

Another indication that climbing Colorado's highest peaks is not very difficult is the sheer number of people who succeed each summer. After descending from Torrey's Peak one weekend in August, I counted over seventy cars in the parking lot. On a weekend the previous August, I passed fifty people in various stages of climbing Mt. Elbert. Even years ago--in 1968--4226 people climbed Longs Peak (Paul W. Nesbit, *Longs Peak*, p. 68). Its parking lot today, to accommodate the number of climbers, is about a quarter-mile long.

Concluding Paragraph

Reworded Thesis: I've probably shattered your belief that Colorado's peaks are the domain of only bears and mountain men who look like bears.

Clincher: Zebulon Pike would be surprised today.

If I've shattered your belief that Colorado's peaks are the domain of only bears and mountain men who look like bears, consider how Zebulon Pike might feel about Pikes Peak today. In 1806, he "predicted that the mountain would never be climbed" (Eberhart and Schmuck, p. 6). Now, via the cog railway or the toll highway, he could reach the summit without moving his legs.