

5-Paragraph Essay Rubric - this is a great format of essay to use to learn and practice critical, foundational writing skills that students use in all kinds of various writing assignments in school. Writing a 4-paragraph essay is great too (taking out one body paragraph).

This rubric applies well to an expository essay style (one that explains something), and it can be tweaked for other styles of essays such as persuasive or descriptive.

Intro Paragraph	3	2	1	Total / Comments
Hook	Exciting, pulls reader in very well	Good job presenting a fairly interesting hook	Hook does not pull the reader in at all, not interesting	
Middle part of the intro - it comes right after the hook and ends right before thesis statement)	Related well to the hook, flows very well, main topic of the essay is clearly being introduced to the reader	Somewhat relates to hook, main topic of essay is a little foggy, doesn't have a good flow	Does not relate well to hook, jumps around, doesn't flow well at all	
Thesis Statement	Clearly and logically presented; topic of whole essay is made clear to the reader	Somewhat generalized; topic of whole essay is somewhat clear	Not well written; topic of the whole essay is not made clear, or the wrong topic is conveyed	

1st Body Paragraph	3	2	1	Total / Comments
Topic Sentence	Clearly introduces the topic	Attempts to introduce the topic	Completely off topic	
Supporting Details	Includes multiple details that support the topic	Includes one or two details that support the topic	Attempts to include details that support the topic	
Transition Words	Transition words are used correctly and connect each idea	Includes some transition words but needs more	Hardly any or no transition words used	
Concluding Sentence	Concluding sentence summarizes the topic without using the exact same words as the topic sentence	Concluding sentence somewhat relates to the topic / could be stronger	No concluding sentence.	

2nd Body Paragraph	3	2	1	Total / Comments
Topic Sentence	Clearly introduces the topic	Attempts to introduce the topic	Completely off topic	
Supporting Details	Includes multiple details that support the topic	Includes one or two details that support the topic	Attempts to include details that support the topic	
Transition Words	Transition words are used correctly and connect each idea	Includes some transition words but needs more	Hardly any or no transition words used	
Concluding Sentence	Concluding sentence summarizes the topic without using the exact same words as the topic sentence	Concluding sentence somewhat relates to the topic / could be stronger	No concluding sentence.	

3rd Body Paragraph	3	2	1	Total / Comments
Topic Sentence	Clearly introduces the topic	Attempts to introduce the topic	Completely off topic	
Supporting Details	Includes multiple details that support the topic	Includes one or two details that support the topic	Attempts to include details that support the topic	
Transition Words	Transition words are used correctly and connect each idea	Includes some transition words but needs more	Hardly any or no transition words used	
Concluding Sentence	Concluding sentence summarizes the topic without using the exact same words as the topic sentence	Concluding sentence somewhat relates to the topic / could be stronger	No concluding sentence.	

Conclusion Paragraph	3	2	1	Total / Comments
Starts with a Transition	Uses a logical transitional word or phrase to begin conclusion	Transitional choice is not the most logical choice	No transitional word or phrase is used	
Well Done Overall	Summarizes the topic without using the exact same words as thesis statements and topic sentences sentence; done in a fresh and exciting way	Concluding sentence summarizes the topic without using the exact same words as the thesis statement or topic sentence	Concluding paragraph somewhat relates to topic of essay	

Mechanics	3	2	1	Total / Comments
Capitalization and Punctuation	Used correctly throughout entire paragraph	Mostly correct throughout paragraph	Several errors	
Complete Sentences	Produced complete sentences.	Some incomplete sentences.	Several incomplete sentences.	