Parts of the 5 Paragraph Essay:

MSVU International Education Centre

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Reminder

Today's session:
Is not recorded

PPT will be posted to
www. msvu/international
webpage

Presenter

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Outline

Today we will examine the 3 sections of the 5 Paragraph Essay:

1. The Introduction
2. Body Paragraphs
3. The Conclusion

For this Presentation

- In the Canadian education system, like in many others, clear and logical organization is very important in academic writing.
- Professors will give points, and take away points, for organization.
- In this presentation, we will look at a 5 paragraph Argumentative Essay.
- Many components of the essay can be applied to several writing genres and assignments.
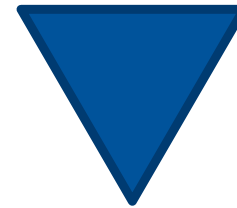
1. The Introduction

The Introduction

The introductory paragraph introduces the subject of your essay. A strong Introduction will capture the reader's attention and entice them to read more. Introductions can be developed in several different ways, but typically, Introductions have 3 parts:

1. The Lead-In
2. Background Information
3. The Thesis Statement

The Introduction

1. **The Lead-In**

You can begin the Introduction with an attention-grabbing opening sentence, or lead-in. There are 3 common types of Lead-Ins:

- **A Quotation** - "The number of international students applying to MSVU has quadrupled in the last two years", exclaimed Dr. Cashen, MSVU Registrar.

- **A Surprising or Provocative Statement** – All international students, despite their IELTS score, should be required to enroll in an academic skills bridging course before starting full-time classes.

- **A Question** – How can the university ethically accept international students without preparing them for the Canadian classroom?

The Introduction

2. Background Information

You can develop the Introduction in several different ways. Experiment with any of these styles. You can often use more than one style in your Introduction:

- **Give general or historical background information -** The general or historical information gradually leads to your thesis. For example, in an essay about winning a lottery, you could begin by giving a brief history of lotteries.

- **Tell an interesting anecdote -** Start your essay with a story that leads to your Thesis Statement. For example, you might begin your lottery essay by telling the story of a real-life lottery winner.

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The Introduction

2. Background Information Continued…

- **<u>Present a vivid description</u> -** Give a detailed description, and then state your Thesis. For example, you might describe the moment when a lottery winner realizes that he or she has won.

- **<u>Present an opposing position</u> -** Open your essay with an idea that contradicts a common belief, and build to your Thesis. For instance, if most people want to win the lottery, you could begin your essay by saying that you definitely do not want to be a millionaire.

- **<u>Give a definition</u> -** Define a term, and then state your Thesis. For example, in an essay about the lottery, you could begin by defining *happiness.*

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The Introduction

3. The Thesis Statement

- Is the writer's claim/opinion and gives a preview of the essay's main ideas.
- Contains 3 reasons why they make that claim.
- Contains no personal language – "I think" or "I believe".
- Is the last sentence of the Introduction.
- Is only 1 sentence.
- Is the heart of the essay – everything the writer includes in the essay supports the claim.

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The Introduction

3. The Thesis Statement

- Contains 3 parts:
    - The opposing side
    - The claim (Thesis)
    - 3 supporting ideas/reasons why you are making this claim

Despite early studies supporting the use of translator dictionaries in ESL classrooms, second language learners should learn new vocabulary from context because studies show more success with retention, comprehension, and motivation.

The Introduction

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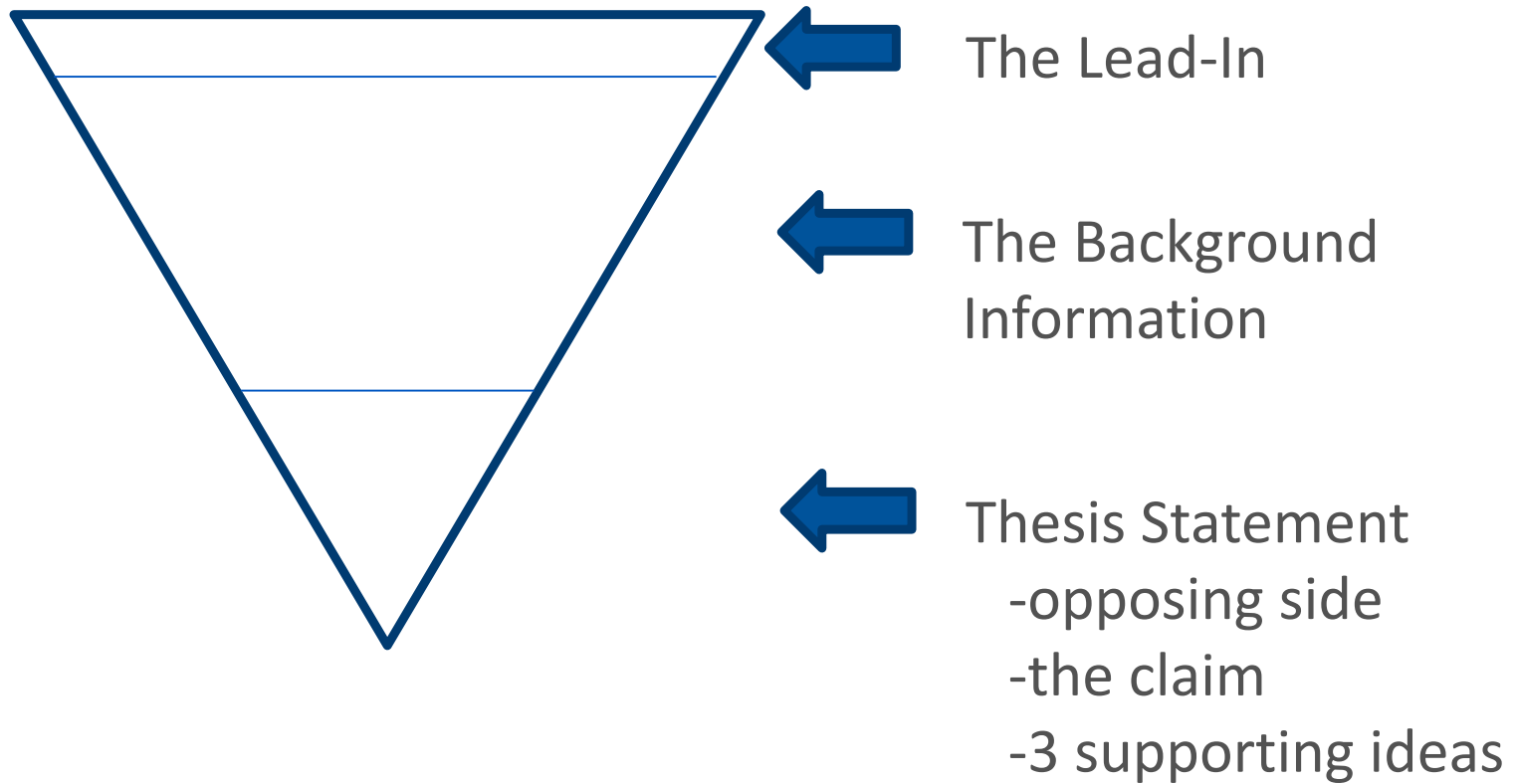
The Introduction

The Lead-In

The Background Information

Thesis Statement
 -opposing side
 -the claim
 -3 supporting ideas

2. Body Paragraphs

Body Paragraphs

The Body Paragraphs are the located after the Introduction. In a typical 5 Paragraph Essay, they are the next 3 paragraphs of the essay. Their purpose is to support the Thesis Statement. The structure of a Body Paragraph is:

- Topic Sentence – Reason 1 from Thesis Statement
- Point 1
- Proof 1
- Explanation 1
- Point 2
- Proof 2
- Explanation 2
- Point 3
- Proof 3
- Explanation 3

Repeat this structure for Body Paragraph 2 and Body Paragraph 3

Body Paragraphs

1. **The Topic Sentence**

The Topic Sentence in each body paragraph is one distinct reason supporting the writer's Thesis (one of the reasons). It should connect to the thesis (claim) in the Introduction.

- The Topic Sentence starts the Body Paragraph
- The Topic Sentence should be 1 sentence long

Body Paragraphs

1. **The Topic Sentence continued**

Thesis Statement from the Introduction:

Despite the fact that electric cars provide a cleaner option compared to gasoline-fueled cars, they will never become a legitimate alternative because they have a reputation for being unreliable, expensive, and inconvenient.

Example of Topic Sentence for body paragraph #1:
Electric cars are seen as being unreliable, which is the first reason that limits their popularity.

Body Paragraphs

Point, Proof, Explanation

Direct following your Topic Sentence, Point, Proof, and Explanation are to follow:

Point – supporting sentence, reason why you stated your Topic Sentence, is in your own words.

Proof - each piece of proof follows a Point. It should come from research, be paraphrased and have a citation.

Explanation - Each Explanation follows a Proof, and it should explain the connection between the Proof and the Topic Sentence in your own words.

Body Paragraphs

Thesis Statement from introduction: *"Despite the fact that electric cars provide a cleaner option compared to gasoline-fueled cars, they will never become a legitimate alternative because they have a reputation for being unreliable, expensive, and inconvenient"*.

- Topic Sentence – from Thesis Statement Reason 1 – "unreliable"
- Point
- Proof
- Explanation

Body Paragraphs

Electric cars are seen as being unreliable, which is the first reason that limits their popularity. **Firstly**, electric cars were not able to hold their electric charge for very long, so the battery died after a short while. In 2015, roughly 75 percent of electric car users in Toronto reported having to charge their battery at least twice as often as they had been told when buying the car (Bowes Cashen, 2017). This difference in battery life lowered the impression of reliability. **The second point is** that electric cars have a tendency to stall when in very cold weather. According to Jane Smith, an engineer at Ford Motors, the engines in electric cars are built to withstand temperatures down to zero degrees Celsius, but lower than this causes electronic problems with the fuel injection (Ford Motors, 2020). As long as there are problems for drivers in cold weather, reliability will be an issue. **Finally,** their tires are not as tough as those on non-electric cars, so they get stuck in winter conditions easily. Electric cars were designed mainly for city driving, and thus the tires that come with the car do not have strong treads, which can be a problem even in cities in winter conditions (Currie, 2018). Weak tires in addition to the others issues already given has lowered the reliability of electric cars.

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3. The Conclusion

Conclusion

Conclusion

A strongly written Conclusion leaves the reader not only with a clear understanding of the central point in your paper but also with a final comment that provides an interesting closing thought.

Conclusion

An effective Conclusion has 3 parts:

1. **A restatement of your Thesis/Claim -** This is simply restating your argument <u>without</u> the three points of proof or the opposing side. This should be the first sentence of the Conclusion. This 1 sentence should start with a transition like, "In conclusion,"

2. **A final restatement of the 3 main points of your paper -** Restate each of your Topic Sentences (reasons) in a separate sentence. Do not include any of your supporting ideas or pieces of evidence. This part should have 3 sentences in total.

3. **Ending comments that inspires your reader to continue thinking about your topic -** This part includes any of the following techniques, and it should be just about half of your Conclusion (about 4 sentences):

Conclusion

Techniques for writing and Ending Comment:

1. **Echo the approach used in the Introduction -** Use different wording and take the topic from specific to general again.

2. **Use a quotation -** For example, in a paper supporting capital punishment, you may include a quotation from a victim's family on why they believe in the death penalty.

3. **End with a powerful fact or other detail related to the topic of the paper -** For example, in a paper arguing for stronger recycling programmes, you could conclude with a statistic that shows the amount of garbage produced each year.

4. **Recommend a course of action, if called for in the material you present -** For example, to conclude a paper discussing reasons for male violence, you could offer a few suggestions for overcoming these causes.

5. **Give suggestions for future research -** Explain areas related to this topic that could be explored more in the future, and why it would be beneficial to get more information about this.

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Conclusion

Example Conclusion

<u>Introduction:</u>

What do we do when we have a problem? Leave it alone? Or try to solve it? Most people say globalisation creates more and more problems, such as increasing the gap between the rich and the poor. However, this difference between people who have a lot and those who have only a little is not the result of an intention to increase the income gap in the world; instead, it is a result of how well the first world nations have been managing their economies. In truth, the developed countries have been supporting developing countries, especially by providing jobs and other opportunities so that starving people can survive with dignity. There is an expression that says, if you give someone a fish, you feed them for a day; if you teach them how to fish, you feed them for a lifetime. This saying illustrates how, despite the many benefits, globalisation is much more of a positive force than a negative one because it supports the lives of the poor with jobs, education, and access to improved technology.

Conclusion

Example Conclusion

<u>Conclusion:</u>

[Restatement of thesis] In conclusion, globalisation is essential for people in the Third World countries to rise from their present state of poverty. [***Summary of main points***] Because of globalisation, more people than ever before have employment in meaningful jobs. As well, literacy at all levels is spreading throughout the world. Technology such as the Internet, cell phones, and chance to travel connect people in all countries and help decrease the income gap between "haves" and "have-nots". [***Ending comment***] Moving forward, globalization will continue to have many far-reaching effects. These effects will require careful monitoring and evaluation from the global community to ensure that they remain positive and healthy for all nations involved. Overall though, the benefits of having a truly global society are unquestionable. Referring back to the expression about teaching a person to fish; globalisation provides the necessary tools for the poor to "eat for the lifetime".

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Recap

The 5 Paragraph Essay:

1. Introduction
   - The Lead-In
   - Background Information
   - Thesis Statement + 3 reasons

2. Body Paragraphs (Body 1, Body 2, Body 3)
   - Topic Sentence
   - Point 1
   - Proof 1
   - Explanation 1
   - Point 2
   - Proof 2
   - Explanation 2
   - Point 3
   - Proof 3
   - Explanation 3

3. The Conclusion
   - Restate the Thesis
   - Final Statement of 3 Points
   - An Inspiring Comment

Thank You!
Questions?