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# Organizational Patterns

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After you generate ideas in the pre-writing stage of the writing process, you must organize those ideas in a logical order so that your readers can follow your line of development. Even though you will have some leeway in how you present your information, there are some basic organizational patterns which you may choose to use as guidelines to get you going. When developing your support paragraphs, it is wise to use a "say it, explain it, and give an example" format.

## Basic five paragraph essay pattern

### I. Introduction

**includes the attention-getting device  
thesis statement**

### II. Support Point #1

**topic sentence introducing first support point  
explanation of first support point  
example of first support point**

### III. Support Point #2

**topic sentence introducing second support point  
explanation of second support point  
example of second support point**

### IV. Support Point #3

**topic sentence introducing third support point  
explanation of third support point**

**example of third support point**

## V. Conclusion

**review of support points one, two, and three**  
**reemphasize thesis statement**  
**refer back to attention-getting device from introduction**

# Argumentative Essay

## I. Introduction

**emotional hook or attention-getting device**  
**thesis statement**

## II. Support Point #1

**topic sentence**  
**explanation of first support point**  
**evidence**

## III. Support Point #2

**topic sentence**  
**explanation of second support point**  
**evidence**

## IV. Support Point #3

**topic sentence**  
**explanation of third support point**  
**evidence**

## V. Opposition/Refutation Section

In this section you will **anticipate the opposing arguments** your readers might be making and **refute each one by one**. Hint: Don't build the opposition's case. **Refute each point immediately after it has been presented.**

## VI. Conclusion

Summarize support points one, two, and three and reiterate your thesis

End with a call to action and/or a strong emotional appeal (Remember-- the last thing a reader reads is the first thing he/she remembers and since this is a persuasive essay, you want to end with a BANG!)

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