

FROM PARAGRAPH TO ESSAY



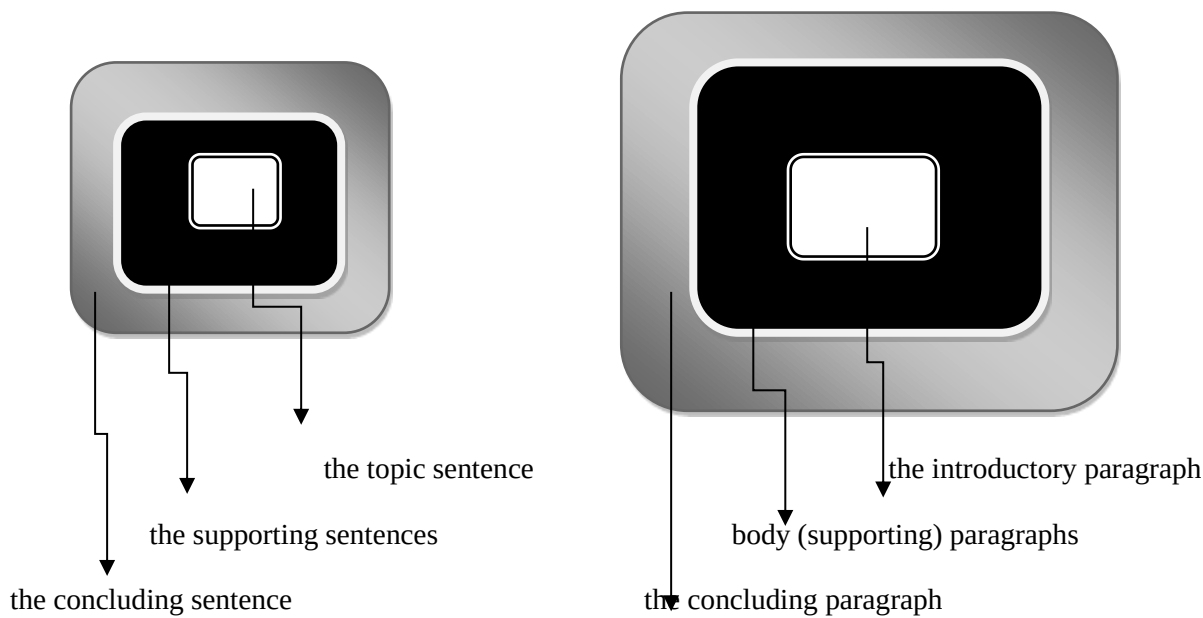
We will learn

- The difference between a paragraph and an essay,
- Definition of an essay
- Structure of an essay

FROM PARAGRAPH TO ESSAY

We have learnt how to plan, organize and write a various models of paragraphs so far. We will learn how to write academic essays by using our knowledge about paragraphs. In this pack, we will learn to write a five – paragraph essay because in academic writing you will usually be asked to do so.

Essay: Essay is a group of paragraphs about one topic and one main idea. It has three parts: the introduction, the body, the conclusion. The structure of a paragraph is very similar to the structure of an essay. We can think of an essay as an expanded paragraph, that is, they have same structure but an essay is longer.



THE PARAGRAPH

THE ESSAY

• The topic sentence states the topic. • The topic sentence states the controlling idea. • The topic sentence is the first sentence of a paragraph. • The supporting sentences reflect the idea in the topic sentence. • The conclusion is the last sentence of a paragraph.	• The introductory paragraph states the topic. • The thesis statement states the controlling idea. • The thesis statement is the last sentence of an introductory paragraph. • The supporting paragraphs reflect the idea in the thesis statement. • The conclusion is the last paragraph of an essay.
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THE ESSAY

GENERAL STATEMENTS
(hook + background information)

THESIS STATEMENT

TOPIC SENTENCE
SUPPORTING SENTENCES
CONCLUDING SENTENCE

TOPIC SENTENCE
SUPPORTING SENTENCES
CONCLUDING SENTENCE

TOPIC SENTENCE
SUPPORTING SENTENCES
CONCLUDING SENTENCE

CONCLUDING SENTENCES
(FINAL THOUGHTS)

THE PARAGRAPHS

¹ A good university should have three important characteristics. ²First of all, it must have enough qualified teachers for every course. Qualified teachers should have adequate teaching skills in their subjects and this helps students improve themselves, so good teachers are indispensable for a good university. ³Secondly, a good university must have many buildings with adequate high technology facilities for students. The classrooms must be large enough and well-equipped. In addition, libraries should have enough books and materials for students. ⁴Finally, a good university should have many facilities for students. For example, there must be enough sport centers and cafes for students to spend their free time. ⁵In conclusion, all these characteristics define a good university.

THE ESSAY

It is a common knowledge that education plays an important role in our lives. The utmost level of education is undoubtedly to have a university degree. However, not every university may meet your expectations. In order to state that you are a graduate of a good university, there should be some requirements to be met. ¹In my opinion, a good university should have qualified teachers, technologically adequate buildings and many facilities for students.

² First of all, it must have enough qualified teachers for each course. Qualified teachers should have adequate teaching skills in their subjects. Without adequate teaching skills, it will be difficult for the teacher to transfer his/her knowledge to the students. Also, as a person, the teacher should have proper personalities, that is, a teacher should be kind, supportive and understanding to his/her students. Otherwise, they may be disliked. So, good teachers are indispensable for a good university.

³Secondly, a good university must have many buildings with adequate high technology facilities with students. The classrooms must be large enough and well-equipped. A small classroom or a classroom without technological supplies such as the internet or television will certainly demotivate students. In addition, libraries should have enough books and materials for students. This is very important to do research for students' studies or assignments. All these above considered, technologically developed buildings are necessary for a good university education.

⁴Finally, a good university should have many facilities for students. For example, there must be enough sport centers and cafes for students to spend their time. Since students spend most of their time studying at school, they need a place to rest and chat with their friends.

In addition, students sometimes need to get over their stress spending time in a sport center. Thus, beside academic study, a good university should provide social opportunities to its students.

⁵ In conclusion, universities are places where students spend the most important stage of their lives. Universities should support the learning process with qualified teachers, technologically adequate buildings and many social facilities. Students should become familiar with all these characteristics so that they can choose a good university, which will affect their future.

Let's analyze the paragraph and essay samples according to the diagram.

- In our sample paragraph, the topic sentence (number 1) becomes the thesis statement of our essay. Notice that thesis statement is always written at the end of the introductory paragraph.
- In our sample paragraph, the supporting sentences (number 2, 3, 4) expand into three separate body (supporting) paragraphs in our essay. In other words, we divide each major and its minor supporting sentences into separate paragraphs. Since we have three supporting sentences in our paragraph, we have three supporting paragraphs in our essay.
- In our sample paragraph, the concluding sentence (number 5) turned into a conclusion paragraph.

EXERCISE-1 Analyze the paragraph and the essay below.

- First, find three main parts of the paragraph: the topic sentence, supporting sentences and the concluding sentence as we did above.
- Then, find three parts of the essay : introductory paragraph, body paragraphs and concluding paragraph
- Underline thesis statement of the essay
- Underline topic sentence and concluding sentences in each body paragraph of the essay.

THE PARAGRAPH

There are many ways to stay healthy. For good health I recommend exercising daily. There are many different forms of exercise one can do. For example, you can go to the gym to lift weights or swim. You can take along walk or ride a bicycle. Eating a good diet is also necessary to stay healthy. A good diet should consist of breads and grain, dairy products, fruits, vegetables and protein. Finally, don't smoke or drink! Both smoking and drinking are bad for your health.

To conclude, three good ways to stay healthy are to exercise every day, eat well, and do not smoke or drink.

THE ESSAY

There goes a saying "Every human being is the author of his own health or disease." To be healthy or not depends on you and if you choose to stay healthy, there are many ways to do so: exercising daily, eating well and not smoking or drinking alcohol.

Firstly, daily exercise is important for good health. There are many different forms of exercise one can do. For example, you can go to gym to lift weights or swim. You can run or jog in your neighborhood. You can take a long walk or ride a bicycle. You do not have to do a lot of exercises. If you are consistent and if you exercise even a little bit every day, you will keep good health.

Next, eating a good diet is necessary to stay healthy. A good diet should consist of bread and grains, dairy products, fruit, vegetables and protein. For instance, a good dinner might consist of pasta with tomato sauce, bread and butter, a fresh salad a pear and a glass of milk. If you eat well at every meal and be sure to include food from the major food groups, you will stay healthy.

Finally, don't smoke or drink! Smoking is very bad for your health. Studies show that smoking causes cancer. Not only that, smoking can give you bad breath and can ruin your teeth .In addition, drinking alcohol is also bad for your health. Alcohol has only empty calories. It does not benefit your body at all.

To conclude, there are many ways to stay healthy. Three good ways are to exercise every day, eat well and not to smoke or drink alcohol. It is important to maintain your health for a long time.

STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY

THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPHS

The introduction is the first paragraph of the essay. It consists of three parts: **hook, background information and thesis statement.**

Hook: It's the first sentence of the introductory paragraph. A hook is necessary to grab reader's interest and attract their attention, and make them curious about your writing. There are some types of "hook" you can use:

TYPES OF HOOK

1. Ask a question

e.g.: Have you ever been to a foreign country and felt lonely? ... (an essay about studying abroad)

2. Use quotation! A quotation works especially well if you relate it strongly to the thesis statement of your essay. It may also be a proverb.

e.g.: "Friends are the most important ingredient in this recipe of life" (an essay about friendship) or

"There is a saying that studying in another country really teaches you a lot; not just about the language, but about the world". (An essay about studying abroad)

3. Use an anecdote! Anecdote is a funny or humorous short story. You can use anecdotes related to the topic of the essay.

e.g.: I was twenty one years old when I first went abroad to study English... (An essay about studying abroad)

4. Use an interesting and a general sentence!

e.g.: Divorce has become a trend among newly married couples recently in Turkey.

(An essay about the reasons of divorce)

Background Information: After the hook, we give the reader background information about the topic of the essay. This background information should lead your reader from a general idea of your topic to a very specific idea.

e.g. '...Nowadays many students after completing their education from universities try to find the ways to study abroad for their future. They think that studying abroad provides better opportunities for them to view the world better...

Thesis statement: Thesis statement of an essay is like the topic sentence of a paragraph. It states the main idea of the essay. We can see the organization of the essay in our thesis statement because we state our major supports (subtopics) in our thesis statements. When listing the subtopics (supporting paragraph ideas) in a thesis statement, a colon (:) is often useful as in the example

e.g.: In my opinion, students choose to study abroad since it is a good way to learn a foreign language, learn about other cultures and have a good career.

Now let's remember our rule about the introductory paragraph:

The introductory paragraph = hook+ background information + thesis statement

So, we combine our examples in hook, background information and thesis statement and we get the following:

There is a saying that studying in another country really teaches you a lot; not just about the language, but about the world. Nowadays many students after completing their education from universities try to find the ways to study abroad for their future. They think that studying abroad provides better opportunities for their world view. In my opinion, students choose to study abroad for three main reasons: to learn a foreign language, learn about other cultures and have a good career.

Notice! The first sentence starts with a hook which gives a quotation about the topic and the following two sentences give background information which aims to narrow the general topic of studying abroad to our thesis statement. The final sentence is the thesis statement. It introduces the three subtopics (to learn a foreign language, learn about other cultures and have a good career) to make us have an idea about the organization of the essay. Therefore, we understand that our first supporting paragraph will be about learning a foreign language as a reason to study abroad.

There are some rules we have to follow while writing a thesis statement.

1. Write your thesis statement at the end of the introductory paragraph, that is, thesis statement is the last sentence of your introduction.
2. A thesis statement is not a fact or observation.

Fact or observation: People use many chemicals. X

Thesis statement: Chemicals that people use have some bad effects on our nature. ✓

3. A thesis statement takes a stand rather than announcing a subject.

Announcement: The purpose /subject of this paper is the difficulty of solving our environmental problems. X

Announcement: I want to talk about the difficulty of solving our environmental problems. X

Thesis statement: Solving our environmental problems is more difficult than many environmentalists believe.

4. A thesis statement has one main idea rather than several main ideas. More than one idea may be too difficult for the reader to understand and for the writer to support.

More than one point: Knowing a foreign language has many benefits, It also has some disadvantages. X

Thesis statement: Knowing a foreign language has many advantages for university students. ✓

5. A thesis statement should neither be too broad nor too narrow.

Too broad: The World War II changed the history. X

Too narrow: I grew up in a small village. X

Thesis statement : The World War II changed the life style of people of 40s. ✓

Thesis statement : The village I grew up helped me develop myself in three important ways. ✓

EXERCISE-2 Read the statements below. Put a tick (✓) beside each statement if it is clear thesis statement. If not, find the problem and correct it with your partner.

e.g.: This essay will be about the crime rate in Konya. Announcement.

Correct: The crime rate in Konya has increased a lot recently for three main reasons.

1. My girlfriend was our neighbor in our summer house. _____
2. My roommate and I get on well in most ways and we have interesting families. _____
3. Capital punishment should be abolished for several reasons. _____
4. I am going to write about the problems of university students. _____
5. Football is an important part of life. _____
6. Milk is rich in calcium. _____
7. The kinds of clothes people wear reflect their personalities. _____

8. Music is important to many people in the world because it can help you relax, express yourself or work better. _____

EXERCISE -3 Write thesis statements from the general topics given. Do not forget to narrow them down. Discuss your thesis statements as a class.

1. Teenagers:
2. Family:
3. Crime:
4. Marriage:
5. Food:

EXERCISE 4: There are three introductory paragraphs below and the sentences in each paragraph are in incorrect order. Put the sentence into correct order.

1. **a.** Just attending the class is not enough. **b.** Do you think people are born as writers? **c.** To become a successful writer, students should follow some important steps. **d.** Writers need a good background in grammar and vocabulary, skills in writing essays, and skills in editing. **e.** Learning to be successful writer involves a lot of hard work.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

2. **a.** But now, there is little disapproval of living together by our society, especially in big cities. **b.** Living together is one example of the many alternative lifestyles around the world. **c.** As opposed to common thought, living together before marriage has many benefits to young couples. **d.** Alternative lifestyle is generally considered to be against our tradition. **e.** In the past, very few couples lived together without a wedding ceremony. **f.** Many couples today choose to live together without marrying.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
6. _____

3. **a.** A sense of humor can be very helpful in terms of social, psychological and physiological aspects. **b.** Humor makes people laugh and thus relax, which is the opposite of how they feel in bad situations. **c.** Most people would agree that humor is good for you in every possible way. **d.** What happens when we laugh? **e.** It therefore helps relieve stress and make people happy.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

THE BODY PARAGRAPHS

The body is the center of the essay. The paragraphs in the body will explain the topic in our essay. As you have learned in thesis statement part, in order to write a good thesis statement, you need to include the major supports (subtopics) in your thesis statement. Each of the topics that you listed in your thesis statement will become a paragraph in the essay now. That is each of the paragraphs in the body must be connected to subtopics in your thesis statement.

Thesis Statement: People can reduce the risk of heart- attack by exercising regularly, eating healthy food and not smoking.

Exercising regularly

PARAGRAPH – A

PARAGRAPH- B

Eating healthy food

PARAGRAPH- C

Not smoking

In this essay, the first body paragraph will explain how exercising regularly can reduce the risk of heart-attack. The second body paragraph will explain how eating healthy food can reduce the risk of heart- attack and the third body paragraph will explain how not smoking can reduce the risk of heart- attack. That is, all of these subtopics support the thesis statement.

Building Better Body Paragraphs

- ❖ Each of the body paragraph should start with a clear topic sentence, which has a topic and a controlling idea.
- ❖ Each of the body paragraph should provide explanations, examples and details to help the reader accept the main points discussed in the thesis statement.
- ❖ The order of the paragraphs should be in the same order as mentioned in the thesis statement.
- ❖ Each main body paragraph will focus on a single idea, reason, or example that supports your thesis.
- ❖ Concluding sentences in body paragraphs are not always required, but it is not wrong to write one.



The first sentence of each paragraph begins with a transition signal from the table below:

Firstly,	Secondly,	Finally,
First of all,	Next,	In addition,
To start with,	For one thing,	Also,
Second,	Third,	Thirdly,

EXERCISE 5: Analyze the sample essays and check if you can see these rules above.

EXERCISE 6: For the thesis statements below, write topic sentences for your body paragraphs. Do not forget to use transitions at the beginning of your topic sentences in your body paragraphs. In order to have a better idea about it, analyze the example below first.

e. g. : Thesis statement: The potential benefits of using Facebook are keep in touch with friends online, to remember the birthdays of your friends and to express your thought in your profile.

Topic sentence 1: To start with, people can keep in touch with their friends thanks to Facebook.

Topic sentence 2: Next, it is good to follow the birthdays of your friends on Facebook.

Topic sentence 3: The last benefit of using Facebook is that you can express your thoughts in your profile.

1- Thesis Statement: The most common problems that developing countries face today are pollution, migration and poverty.

Topic sentence 1:

Topic sentence 2:

Topic sentence 3:

2- Thesis Statement: Personally, I oppose the idea of building of a big shopping centre in our neighborhood for the reasons of noise, traffic congestion and the damage of natural beauty.

Topic sentence 1:

Topic sentence 2:

Topic sentence 3:

3- Thesis Statement: According to health specialists, the three possible reasons for a long and healthy life are diet rich in vitamins, unpolluted environment and physical work.

Topic sentence 1:

Topic sentence 2:

Topic sentence 3:

EXERCISE 7: Below is an essay with the introduction and body parts. Complete the missing parts in the essay.

- The topic sentence of the first supporting paragraph.
- The details or examples of the second supporting paragraph. You can also add a concluding sentence.
- The whole supporting paragraph with the topic sentence, details and the concluding sentence (optional).

I have worked with many different people and I have found that some of my co-workers have been better to work with than others. The co-workers that I enjoyed working with shared some positive qualities. In my opinion, the three most important characteristics in a co-worker are honesty, creativity and the ability to work well with others.

.....
.....
.....

..... If your colleague lies, an atmosphere of distrust and negative gossiping may arise. Honest people complete tasks that they promised to do and take responsibility for their actions. They own up to what they do and don't try to put the blame on someone else.

An excellent co-worker should also be a creative person.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

The Concluding Paragraph

The conclusion is the last paragraph of the essay. It does three things.

- It signals the end of the essay.
- It summarizes the main points.
- It leaves the reader with the writer's final thoughts on the subject.

Just as the introductory paragraph has parts, the concluding paragraph has two parts:

1. A summary of the main points or a restatement of the thesis statement in different words.
2. Your final thoughts on the subject.

The first sentence of the concluding paragraph begins with a concluding transition signal from the table below.

In conclusion,	To summarize,	In summary,
To conclude,	To sum up,	Briefly,
In brief,	In short,	Shortly,

HOW TO WRITE A BETTER CONCLUSION

1. THE SUMMARY of THE MAIN THOUGHTS

The summary statement is an effective way to start your concluding paragraph. Look at your thesis statement again and rewrite it in different words. Avoid repeating the same words and phrases from the thesis statement because if you do, it may sound boring or repetitive. Here are some examples of thesis statements and summary statements:

Thesis Statement: Many people are buying Volvo because of its price, fuel economy, and high resale value.

Summary Statement: Reasonable pricing, low fuel consumption and an attractive resale value have all contributed to the popularity of Volvo in today's market.

Thesis Statement: Italy is a stimulating place to visit because of its magnificent location, theatres and art galleries, and many fine restaurants.

Summary Statement: If you love beautiful surroundings, theatre and art, and an excellent meal, then Italy is the best place for you.

2. FINAL THOUGHTS

In this part, you may write your comments on the subjects of your essay. This is the place to express your opinion, make a judgement or give a recommendation. However, do not add any new ideas in the conclusion because it is the end of the essay.

Thesis Statement: Many people are buying Volvo because of its price, fuel economy and high resale value.

Final Thoughts: Because of these features, Volvo is the type of car many people prefer to have. We will have to wait and see to what extent the popularity of Volvo will increase in the near future.

Thesis Statement: Italy is a stimulating place to visit because of its magnificent location, theaters and art galleries, and many fine restaurants.

Final thought: Perhaps it's because I am of Italian ethnicity, still Italy is my favorite country to visit. I don't really understand the language much, but it is "bellissimo!"

3- A PROVOKING QUESTION (Optional)

Using a provoking question in the concluding paragraph is optional, but you have to summarize the main points discussed in the body parts and add a final thought. A question like in the introductory

paragraph grabs reader's attention. The question should be related to the points you have made in the essay.

Thesis Statement: Many people are buying Volvo because of its price, fuel economy, and high resale value.

Question: Wouldn't it be great for you to have one?

Thesis Statement: Italy is a stimulating place to visit because of its magnificent location, theatres and art galleries, many fine restaurants.

Question: Why don't you go and take a one way ticket to Italy now?

So, a concluding paragraph should look like this:

In conclusion, reasonable pricing, low fuel consumption and an attractive resale value have all contributed to the popularity of Volvo in today's market. Because of these features, Volvo is the type of car many people prefer to have. We will have to wait and see to what extent the popularity of Volvo will increase in the near future. Wouldn't it be great for you to have one?

In summary, if you love beautiful surroundings, theater and art, and an excellent meal, then Italy is the best place for you. Perhaps, it's because I am of Italian ethnicity but Italy is my favorite country to visit. I don't really understand the language much, but it is "bellissimo". Why don't you go and take a one way ticket to Italy now?

EXERCISE-8: Read the introductory paragraphs below and write related concluding paragraphs by summarizing the main points or paraphrasing thesis statement and adding your own comment as a final message to the reader. You can also ask a provoking question

- 1. Introductory Paragraph:** Do you have an idea of how many children get injured or die due to home accidents? Accidents are the main cause of injury and even death in children. People only relate accident to traffic accident or accidents in outdoor activities. However, as a matter of fact, the place where people regard as the safest place-home –hides many "hazards". Yet such deaths and injuries can be avoided through some easy steps such as keeping floor dry, putting dangerous items up high and locked away and putting plastic safety caps on electric outlets.

ConcludingParag.: _____

2. **Introductory paragraph:** Most kids plug into the world of television long before they enter school. According to a recent research, two-thirds of kids watch television an average of 2 hours a day. No doubt that television can be an excellent educator and entertainer, but despite its advantages, too much television can be harmful because it creates passivity, discourages communication and presents a false picture of reality.

ConcludingParag.:_____

3. **Introductory Paragraph:** Did you know that 90 percent of an illness occurs due to stress? Nowadays, many people work long hours so that they can afford to buy things that they think will make them happy; however working such long hours along with obligations to family and friends cause a lot of stress in people's lives. People need to reduce stress in their lives so that they can remain healthy. A healthy lifestyle, which includes listening to soft music, exercising and maintaining a positive attitude are the best ways of reducing stress.

ConcludingParag.:_____

ESSAY OUTLINING

As you learned while studying the paragraphs, outlining helps you organize your ideas in the writing process. Outlining an essay is important because essay writing is a complex process. It becomes difficult to organize your thoughts since there are more details in the essay; so, essay outlining is like the skeleton of your ideas. Now, let's compare the outlining for a paragraph and for an essay

PARAGRAPH OUTLINING

TOPIC SENTENCE (TS): _____
A-First Supporting Idea: _____
B- Second Supporting Idea: _____
C- Third Supporting Idea: _____
CONCLUDING SENTENCE: _____

ESSAY OUTLINING

I. INTRODUCTION:

Thesis Statement: _____

II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1:

Transition/ Topic Sentence: _____
Detail 1: _____
Detail2: _____
Detail3: _____
(Concluding Sentence)

III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2:

Transition/ Topic Sentence: _____
Detail 1: _____
Detail2: _____
Detail3: _____
(Concluding Sentence)

IV. BODY PARAGRAPH 3:

Transition/ Topic Sentence: _____
Detail 1: _____
Detail2: _____
Detail3: _____
(Concluding Sentence)

V. CONCLUSION: _____

- The detail number in each body paragraph may change according to your supporting ideas. Also, the concluding sentence in each body paragraph is optional as it is mentioned in the body paragraphs part above.
- Also note that the outline you make can be changed at any time; that is you can add or delete some parts in your outline as you are writing.

- In essay outlining, the introduction, the topic sentences of each body paragraphs and the conclusion part should be written in sentence form, however, you should write the details in the body paragraphs in phrase form as in the example below.

Sample Outline of an Essay

I.INTRODUCTION:

Thesis Statement: Games are as important for adults as they are for children because they are a way to relax, to maintain good relationships with family and friends and a good exercise for the brain.

II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1:

Transition/ Topic Sentence: First of all, games can provide adults with a way to relax

Detail 1: a chance to take a break

Detail 2: forgetting about the problems at work

III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2:

Transition/ Topic Sentence: Secondly, when adults play games with others, it will also maintain good relationship with family and friends.

Detail 1: Bringing people together

Detail 2: Chatting and telling stories

Detail 3: Lots of laughter

IV. BODY PARAGRAPH 3:

Transition/ Topic Sentence: Finally, while playing games, adults exercise different parts of their brains.

Detail 1: Taboo

Detail 2: Chess, a game of strategy

V.CONCLUSION: In conclusion, game playing is good for adults because it offers them a form of relaxation, a way to maintain good relationship and a way to engage different parts of their brains. Although most adults don't spend as much time playing games as children, it is possible for them to have fun with games.

EXERCISE 9: Work with a group of three and write an essay about the importance of games for adults by using the outline in the previous page.

YOUR TURN : Write an essay on one of the following topics and do not forget to make an outline before. Write your essay in A4 format, clean paper. First give it to your friend to check and then to your teacher to get feedback. Use the peer feedback form on page 25. Ask your teacher how to use peer - editing checklist.

- My Favorite Food
- The World's Best TV Show
- The Best Teacher I Ever Had
- My Town Is the Best Town Around