

Story/ Essay Formula (with thesis statement)

1 - Opening Paragraph - The paragraph starts by creating interest and transitions from that interest to the thesis statement. This paragraph *must* contain a clear thesis statement; the thesis statement must be either the last or second to last sentence. The thesis statement is one sentence and its purpose is to introduce what will be said in the 3 body paragraphs.

Thesis statement example:

As I began to learn more about his *courage*, his *leadership* and his *patriotism*, I realized he had indeed accomplished much.

2 - First Body Paragraph - This paragraph goes into detail about the first item in the thesis statement - *courage*

3 - Second Body Paragraph - This paragraph goes into detail about the second item in the thesis statement - *leadership*

4 - Third Body Paragraph - This paragraph goes into detail about the third item in the thesis statement - *patriotism*

5 - Closing Paragraph - This paragraph can be considered the linking paragraph. (It links to the opening paragraph and restates the information) The thesis statement must be restated in this paragraph, however, different and more creative words/phrases must be used.

Restated thesis statement example:

He was a person with *vision*, a *commitment to a new country*, and a *willingness to sacrifice everything* for something I took for granted - my freedom)

Courage - willingness to sacrifice everything

Leadership - vision

Patriotism - a commitment to a new country

6 - The Title - The title is derived from your last 2 concluding sentences. It is called the "twist" and makes a more interesting title.

BASIC GUIDELINES:

- Each story/essay will typically contain 5 paragraphs
- Each paragraph must have 5-7 sentences
- Sentences *must* vary in length
- Sentences *must* begin with a variety of word
- Do not repeat key words more than twice in a paragraph

PARENTS:

This formula is intended to give students a simple and clear way to write.

It allows them to write an organized paper. If they have a formula and know how to organize their writing, they will become more creative, expressive and confident writers.