

WHAT IS AN ESSAY PARAGRAPH?

A one-paragraph essay is made up of three key components:

1. The Topic Sentence

The topic sentence will outline the main idea. It is sometimes also referred to as the thesis statement, as it is here that you can lay out a position or thesis that the rest of the paragraph will look to defend.

2. The Support For The Main Idea In The Topic Sentence

This is the body of the paragraph and will contain the supporting evidence and ideas that seek to prove the opening statement. The information contained in the body sentences will depend on what is needed to prove the thesis. It could include one or several of the following:

- ✦ Examples of events or facts that support the thesis
- ✦ Quotes from authoritative texts or individuals
- ✦ Descriptions of people, places or events
- ✦ Statistical evidence and/or numerical supporting data
- ✦ Personal stories or experiences may be included
- ✦ Comparisons or metaphorical descriptions
- ✦ Cause and effect arguments or discussions
- ✦ Outlining a process or procedure

3. A Conclusion And Closing Statement

You should conclude a one paragraph essay with an effective summary that convinces your reader of the thesis you laid out in your opening statement. Be careful not to repeat the topic sentence. The reader should finish reading your essay feeling they have learned something, and that there has been a forward moving progression to your argument.

TIPS FOR WRITING A GREAT ONE PARAGRAPH ESSAY:

Use words like first, then, after, next, eventually and so on to lead the reader from your opening thesis through the proof in the body of the essay and on to the logical conclusion that you are putting forward. It should be easy for your reader to follow your train of thought. Often a one paragraph essay is ineffective because the author fails to provide sufficient evidence. Instead the author may use too many adjectives, adverbs and other “filler” language, instead of sticking to the facts and evidence that supports the position taken. Be concise, and choose your words carefully when composing a one paragraph essay. Even so, take care to mind the aesthetic aspect as well.