



[Back to Frankie's
ESL Worksheets](#)

Planning a Five Paragraph Essay

You are going to write an essay in which you try to persuade your audience that vegetarianism is better than meat-eating. (Perhaps you do not feel this way in reality, but please adopt this point of view just for writing practice!) You are going to get a lot of help with ideas and organisation.

1. Organise the following jumbled sentences to form the first paragraph.

Follow the THESIS + Supporting Points pattern.

- a. Thirdly, most of the meat we eat comes from factory farmed animals which are kept in unnatural and even cruel conditions.
- b. There are three main reasons why I think people should become vegetarians.
- c. Secondly, a meat-based diet is high in fats and cholesterol whereas a vegetarian diet offers plenty of minerals, vitamins, protein and roughage.
- d. Firstly, meat eating is wasteful since it takes a lot of crops to produce a fairly small quantity of meat.

2. Take the three supporting points (SP) and rewrite them slightly so that they can be used as TOPIC SENTENCES in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. For example, Paragraph 2 (SP1): ***Meat eating is an inefficient use of resources when so many people in the world are hungry.***

3. You need supporting points for each of your topic sentences. Look at the following notes and arrange them under your three topics/paragraphs. (Beware: three of the notes are weak ideas and should be thrown out!)

- vast quantities of crops (could feed humans!) fed to meat-producing animals: to produce 1 kg beef a cow must eat 14 kg grain/soybeans
- cattle housed in cramped sheds + injected with drugs that make them grow unnaturally fat (+ castrated & de-horned without anaesthetic)
- a lot of meat-eaters have smelly breath + sweat more than veggies
- meat-eaters more likely to contract cancer [risk of breast cancer = 3.8 times greater for women who eat meat daily compared to those who eat it less than once a week][male meat-eaters: 50% chance of a heart attack... veggie men: 15%]
- approx. 20% factory farm chickens die from stress
- Mahatma Gandhi was a vegetarian + he advised others to become veggies
- veal calves kept in tiny crates + fed a diet low in iron so that they will produce tender, pale pink meat... Many suffer from constant diarrhoea,

pneumonia etc.

- livestock occupy land that could be used to grow food [55% of all U.S. farmland: beef production]
- BSE (destroys the central nervous system) common in cattle + a human form now exists
- vegetarians are usually more handsome and intelligent than meat-eaters

4. Write Paragraphs 1-4 in your exercise book. **N.B.** When you write Paragraphs 2-4, you must write complete sentences - not just notes! In addition, you should use linking words where appropriate - *Firstly, Also, In addition, For example, ... whereas ..., Finally* etc.

5. Write a conclusion. Remember that this should restate your main points but change the wording. One option is present the points "in a backwards direction":

SP3 >> SP2 >> SP1 >> THESIS.

(This has the advantage that you finish on a strong note, repeating your main idea, the thesis.)

Your Own Essay

Now think of your own topic for another five-paragraph essay. Plan the essay first. Start with a bold, clearly stated THESIS. Follow this with strong *Supporting Points* (SP) that can be expanded in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. Start each of those paragraphs with a TOPIC SENTENCE that re-states the "SP" in slightly different words. Support each topic sentence with a few examples or details. Write a concluding paragraph that re-states the first paragraph in different words. End on a strong note!

Possible topics include:

- Cars should be banned.
- Animal testing should be outlawed.
- Tourism should not be allowed in Antarctica.
- Capital punishment is inhumane.
- Singapore needs better facilities for skateboarders.

Plan >>> Write >>> Review (share?) >>> Rewrite >>> Edit ...

Frankie Meehan