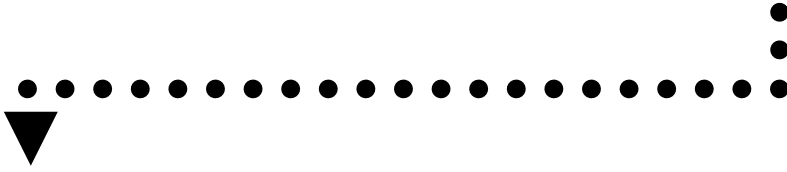


WRITING TIP 3



Understand the components of a five-paragraph essay.

Read the five-paragraph essay that follows. All of its important components are labeled.

Wanda Wrighter
Professor Simmons
ENC 1101
June 23, 2007

The essay begins with a **correct heading**: student's name, professor's name, course, and date.

Give Mine to the Birds

I realize that worms are a very available food source. If I dig up rich, damp earth, I will discover many of these squirming creatures. If I prefer not to harvest worms from the wild, I can buy a pound container at a bait shop for under a dollar. Since ground beef goes for \$1.29 a pound, worms would be a considerable saving. I also know that worms are very high in protein and that some cultures consider them a delicacy. **But even after considering all of these positive factors, I still would never eat worms because they are unappetizing, difficult to prepare, and unpopular with other people.**

Do **not** underline or use quotation marks around the title of an essay.

Capitalize all major words of the title. But do **not** capitalize short prepositions or articles unless they are the first word of the title.

Your title should be more interesting than a restatement of the topic.

Initially, I would be repelled by the worms' unappetizing characteristics. I am not used to my ~~pork chops~~ and hamburgers writhing on my plate, so wiggling worms would make me queasy. Moreover, I would gag if I stabbed a worm with my fork and it started to squirm wildly. Another unappealing trait of worms is their texture. Because they are mucus-coated on the outside, they would slip around in my mouth, sliming my tongue. On the inside, worms are gritty from the dirt in their digestive tract, so my teeth

Here is the thesis statement. Review **Writing Tip 1** for thesis statement information.

Notice that the topic sentence for this first body paragraph reflects the first restriction from the thesis statement above.

would grind annoyingly as I chewed. Another important factor is that worms have an unpleasant color. They are usually bluish-gray and tipped with pink. These colors remind me of chewing gum stuck to the underside of school desks, a rather distasteful association.

Vivid details throughout get the reader's attention.

Even if I could stomach these unpalatable features of worms, I would not know how to prepare them. Clean, ready-to-cook worms are not available in grocery stores. The last time I perused the meat section of Winn Dixie, there were no cellophane-packaged worms snuggled between the chicken legs and cube steaks. Additionally, I cannot buy prepared worms at Albertson's delicatessen as I do chicken salad and baked beans. Even if I did have a supply of fresh worms, I would not know how to clean them. Since both ends of a worm look alike, I would be uncertain what to chop off. Filleting the critters would be even more difficult because they are so thin and easily punctured. Furthermore, no cookbook has worm recipes. Should I fry, boil, stew, bake, barbecue, sauté, or grill the creatures once I have cleaned them? Are worms most tasty scrambled with eggs for breakfast, chopped and sprinkled over ice cream, served as an appetizer on Hi-Ho crackers, or heaped like fried onions on hot sandwiches?

Notice that the topic sentence for this second body paragraph reflects the **second** restriction from the thesis statement above.

More vivid details **keep** the reader's attention.

The most important reason I would never eat worms is that everyone would think I was crazy. My parents, for instance, would wonder what kind of daughter they had raised. Dad, in anger and disappointment, would disinherit me while Mom would wring her hands and ask over and over, "What did we do wrong?" Next, my friends would ostracize me. Noel would no longer accept my dinner invitations if he knew I was preparing worms as the main course. Also, my neighbors would neglect to call me when they were organizing a potluck supper for fear of the dish I might bring. My coworkers would similarly shun me. Once my boss found out I

Like the first two body paragraphs, this third body paragraph has a clear topic sentence that reflects the **third** restriction from the thesis statement above.

Additional specific details **continue** to hold the reader's interest.

ate worms, he would avoid recommending me for promotions and raises. My colleagues would steer clear of me in the break room because no one wants to sit next to a person slurping up worms alfredo.

I do indeed have many good reasons not to eat worms. First of all, it is too much trouble learning to stomach the many unappetizing characteristics of these creatures. I also do not have time to find delicious recipes for cooking slimy worms. Nor do I wish to live with the ostracism that eating fish bait would win me. Therefore, until McDonald's creates a McWorm item for its menu, I will leave worms for early birds.

The conclusion begins with a sentence that captures the **main idea** of the essay.

Notice that three sentences in the conclusion each summarize a **body paragraph** from above.

The last sentence **cleverly** concludes the entire essay, leaving the reader with a **good last impression**.