

## Assessment sheet 4.3: Writing an outline for a '5-paragraph' essay

This resource supports Unit 4.3 on pages 163–69 of the *IB English B* coursebook.

This template is based on the essay outline provided on pages 167–68 of the coursebook. It follows the structure of a '5-paragraph essay'. The defining characteristics shown in this structure can be found in most good essays.

You may find it helpful to use a copy of this template when writing an outline for your own essays.

<b>Essay title:</b>		
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Attention grabber</b> Start with a sentence that grabs the reader's interest – a bold statement, a quotation or an anecdote.	
	<b>The basics</b> Introduce the topic of your essay. For essays on literature, introduce the literary works you have read.	
	<b>Thesis statement</b> This is the basis of your whole essay. State your main argument clearly.	

<b>Body paragraph 1</b>	<p><b>Topic sentence 1</b></p> <p>In this sentence you should relate back to the thesis statement. State an argument, make a point or a claim, and say what the paragraph will be about.</p>	
	<p><b>Illustration</b></p> <p>In this sentence, provide a piece of evidence to support topic sentence 1.</p>	
	<p><b>Explanation</b></p> <p>Make a clear connection between the illustration and the topic sentence, and explain why this is significant.</p>	

<b>Body paragraph 2</b>	<b>Topic sentence 2</b> The point you make in this sentence should again relate back to the thesis statement.	
	<b>Illustration</b> Give evidence to support the topic sentence. Include specific examples, or quotations if you are writing a literature essay.	
	<b>Explanation</b> Make another clear connection between the evidence given in the Illustration and the topic sentence.	

<b>Body paragraph 3</b>	<p><b>Topic sentence 3</b></p> <p>Make another point that links directly and clearly to the thesis statement.</p>	
	<p><b>Illustration</b></p> <p>The evidence given here should support topic sentence 3.</p>	
	<p><b>Explanation</b></p> <p>Explain clearly how the evidence in the Illustration supports the point made in topic sentence 3, and makes the final argument to support the thesis statement.</p>	

<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>Recap</b> Show how the ideas in your essay have been developed.  Bring together your main points.  Try not to repeat words that you have used in previous paragraphs – use synonyms instead.	
	<b>End with wise words!</b> The final sentence should be a statement that reflects and summarises the main ideas of the essay.	