



WRITING THE FIVE PARAGRAPH HISTORICAL ESSAY

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Introduction

This handout provides a brief explanation of how to write a clear, concise, and compelling five paragraph historical essay. This five-paragraph structure provides students with a template to use regardless of topic. The foundation of writing longer papers and essays is rooted in understanding how to write a clear, concise, and compelling five-paragraph essay so take your time and study this guide. Here is the format to follow for the five-paragraph structure:

- Introduction
- Body Paragraph One
- Body Paragraph Two
- Body Paragraph Three
- Conclusion

Format

The directions below provide a blueprint for students to follow when writing each of the five paragraphs. In addition to the guidelines below, here are the format directions for each essay to follow as well:

- One-inch margins all around the paper
- Full justify margins
- Times New Roman
- Size 12 font
- Double-spaced
- Each paragraph should have five but no more than seven sentences
- Most well-written five paragraph essays are between 1,400-1,500 words

Paragraph Outline

Introduction (5-7 sentences)

- The first sentence of the Introduction starts with a broad opening statement which establishes the context and time period in question.
- The second, third, and fourth sentences of your introduction should refer to the upcoming three body paragraphs. For example, the second sentence of your Introduction should refer to the second paragraph, the third sentence of your Introduction should refer to your third paragraph, and the fourth sentence should refer to your fourth paragraph. Your fifth, and final sentence forms your thesis. The thesis statement should clearly present your argument to the reader. *Your thesis sentence, the last sentence of your Introduction, needs to be developed before you even begin writing.*

Body Paragraph One (5-7 sentences)

- It should open with a topic sentence. This topic sentence should be an argument that helps support and prove the thesis statement.
- From the topic sentence, you can go on to present specific evidence to support your argument. This evidence must relate to your topic sentence. Do not fact dump or story tell. (Aim for using at least two solid pieces of evidence per paragraph.)
- Then, wrap up the Body Paragraph with a mini-concluding sentence that sums up only what you have discussed in this paragraph and how it relates to your thesis.

Body Paragraph Two (5-7 sentences)

- Follows format of body paragraph one.
- This time, pick the second sub-topic in your intro paragraph.

Body Paragraph Three (5-7 sentences)

- Follows format of body paragraphs one and two.
- This time, pick the third sub-topic in your intro paragraph.

Conclusion (5-7 sentences)

- Your conclusion is a wrap-up of the entire essay.
- The first thing your conclusion should contain is a reworded thesis statement.
- The conclusion should then continue to address how your topic sentence arguments supported your thesis statement.
- Finally, the conclusion should end with a more general observation about how the topic applies to the time period.

I. Introduction (5-7 sentences)

- a. Opening Statement
- b. Body paragraph 1 introduction
- c. Body paragraph 2 introduction
- d. Body paragraph 3 introduction
- e. Thesis Statement

II. Body Paragraph (5-7 sentences)

- a. Topic Sentence (pertaining to Subtopic #1) Explanation/Define the subtopic
- b. Evidence/content A
- c. Explanation/analysis of evidence A
- d. Evidence/content B
- e. Explanation/analysis of evidence B
- f. Mini conclusion only about Subtopic #1

III. Body Paragraph 2 (5-7 sentences)

- a. Topic Sentence (pertaining to Subtopic #2) Explanation/Define the subtopic
- b. Evidence/content A
- c. Explanation/analysis of evidence A
- d. Evidence/content B
- e. Explanation/analysis of evidence B
- f. Mini conclusion only about Subtopic#2

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (5-7 sentences)

- a. Topic Sentence (pertaining to Sub-Topic #3) Explanation/Define the subtopic
- b. Evidence/content A
- c. Explanation/analysis of evidence A
- d. Evidence/content B
- e. Explanation/analysis of evidence B
- f. Mini conclusion only about Subtopic #3

V. Conclusion (5-7 sentences)

- a. Restatement of Thesis
- b. Sum up how your body paragraphs support your thesis statement (multiple sentences)
- c. Broad statement relating to topic and its legacy moving forward

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

<https://chat.openai.com/chat>

ChatGPT - is a member of the generative pre-trained transformer (GPT) family of language models.

ChatGPT from OpenAI is easy to use. All you have to do is type in your text and you will receive the information. To use the tools from OpenAI, you'll need an account. If you don't have one, simply register with your Google or Microsoft account.

OpenAI's ChatGPT tool is designed to give detailed responses to any inquiry you type - from questions to statements. While the best results come from inputting a statement, questions are also accepted. For example, if you type "explain how a combustion engine works" you'll get a more detailed result than if you asked, "how does a combustion engine work".

To get started visit <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

The next few pages provide AI results from the following queries. Notice how each query is worded differently. This is done intentionally to help produce different results from the other queries.

- Write a 1,500-word profile on Andrew Carnegie
- How did Andrew Carnegie impact the United States in the 1890s?
- Identify three contributions Andrew Carnegie made to late 19th century America
- Discuss three negative aspects of Andrew Carnegie's business practices in the late 19th century
- Explain how Andrew Carnegie contributed to late 19th century using his quotes and primary sources

Write a 1,500-word profile on Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie was a Scottish American industrialist who is considered one of the greatest businessmen in American history. Born on November 25, 1835, in Dunfermline, Scotland, Carnegie was the son of a handloom weaver and a mother who worked in cotton mills. His family immigrated to the United States in 1848, and they settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Early Life and Education:

Carnegie began his career as a bobbin boy in a textile factory, earning \$1.20 a week. He later worked as a messenger boy for the Ohio Telegraph Company, where he learned Morse code and became a telegraph operator. During this time, Carnegie became an avid reader, and he spent much of his free time in the local library, educating himself on a variety of subjects.

Career:

In 1856, Carnegie began working for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as a telegraph operator. He quickly rose through the ranks and became the company's superintendent of the western division in 1861. During the Civil War, Carnegie played a crucial role in the transportation of troops and supplies for the Union Army. He also invested in oil and built his own ironworks, which became one of the largest in the world.

Carnegie retired from the railroad industry in 1865, at the age of 30. He focused on expanding his iron and steel business, and in 1873, he established the Carnegie Steel Company. By the 1890s, Carnegie's company was the largest steel manufacturer in the world, producing more steel than all of Great Britain.

Philanthropy:

Despite his immense wealth, Carnegie believed in using his fortune to improve society. He wrote extensively on the subject of philanthropy and believed that it was the duty of the wealthy to use their wealth for the greater good. In 1889, he wrote an essay titled "The Gospel of Wealth," in which he argued that the rich had a responsibility to give away their wealth to benefit society.

Over the course of his life, Carnegie gave away more than \$350 million to various causes, including libraries, universities, and public works projects. He believed that education was the key to social progress, and he donated millions of dollars to fund the construction of more than 2,500 public libraries across the United States and other countries.

Carnegie also believed in promoting peace, and he funded the construction of the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, which serves as the home of the International Court of Justice. He also established the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which continues to fund research and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting global peace.

Personal Life:

Carnegie married Louise Whitfield in 1887, and the couple had one child, a daughter named Margaret. Carnegie was a devoted family man and spent much of his later years traveling with his wife and daughter. He also enjoyed spending time at his estate in Lenox, Massachusetts,

where he hosted many notable figures of the time, including Mark Twain and President William McKinley.

Legacy:

Andrew Carnegie is remembered not only for his immense wealth but also for his philanthropic efforts and his belief in using his fortune to improve society. His contributions to the fields of education and peace continue to have a lasting impact on the world today.

Carnegie's impact on the steel industry was also significant, as his innovations in steel manufacturing helped to revolutionize the industry and make it more efficient. He was a strong advocate of vertical integration, which allowed him to control every aspect of the steel manufacturing process, from mining the raw materials to selling the finished product.

Carnegie's legacy is also reflected in the many institutions that bear his name, including the Carnegie Mellon University, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and the Carnegie Hall. His contributions to education and the arts

How did Andrew Carnegie impact the United States in the 1890s?

Andrew Carnegie was one of the most successful industrialists of the late 19th century, and he had a significant impact on the United States during the 1890s. Here are a few key ways in which he influenced the country:

- **Steel production:** Carnegie's company, Carnegie Steel Company, was the largest steel producer in the world during the 1890s. This helped fuel the growth of American industry and infrastructure, including the construction of railroads, bridges, and buildings.
- **Philanthropy:** Carnegie was a major philanthropist during the 1890s and beyond. He believed in the idea of "the gospel of wealth," which held that the wealthy had a responsibility to use their wealth for the greater good. Carnegie donated millions of dollars to establish public libraries, universities, and other institutions.
- **Labor relations:** Carnegie was not always viewed favorably by the workers in his steel mills, who felt they were underpaid and overworked. In 1892, a strike at Carnegie's Homestead steel mill turned violent, and several workers were killed. This incident highlighted the need for better labor relations and fairer working conditions.
- **Business practices:** Carnegie's success as an industrialist was due in part to his innovative business practices. He embraced new technologies and production methods, and he was known for his ability to streamline operations and maximize efficiency. His approach helped set the stage for the modern business world.

Overall, Andrew Carnegie had a significant impact on the United States during the 1890s and beyond. His contributions to steel production, philanthropy, labor relations, and business practices helped shape the country in important ways.

Identify three contributions Andrew Carnegie made to late 19th century America

Andrew Carnegie made numerous contributions to late 19th century America, but here are three of his most significant contributions:

- **Steel production:** Carnegie was one of the pioneers of the American steel industry. He built the largest steel mill in the world, which allowed the United States to become a leading producer of steel. Carnegie's steel mills provided the raw materials needed for the construction of railways, bridges, and skyscrapers, and helped spur industrialization and economic growth.
- **Philanthropy:** Carnegie was a major philanthropist and gave away a significant portion of his wealth to support education, science, and the arts. He believed in the "Gospel of Wealth," which held that the wealthy had a moral responsibility to use their wealth for the greater good. Carnegie's philanthropic efforts included the establishment of libraries, universities, and cultural institutions that have had a lasting impact on American society.
- **Business practices:** Carnegie was known for his innovative and efficient business practices. He embraced new technologies and production methods, and was an early advocate of vertical integration, in which a company controls all stages of the production process. Carnegie's approach helped to increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve efficiency in American industry, setting the stage for modern business practices.

Discuss three negative aspects of Andrew Carnegie's business practices in the late 19th century

While Andrew Carnegie's business practices contributed to the growth and success of the American steel industry and modern business practices, there were also negative aspects associated with his methods. Here are three negative aspects of Carnegie's business practices in the late 19th century:

- **Poor working conditions:** Despite being a wealthy philanthropist who championed the "Gospel of Wealth," Carnegie's steel mills were notorious for poor working conditions. Workers were often required to work long hours in dangerous and unsanitary conditions, and there were few safety regulations in place. In 1892, a labor strike at Carnegie's Homestead steel mill turned violent, resulting in several deaths and injuries.
- **Exploitation of workers:** Carnegie was known for his ruthless business practices, and he was willing to exploit workers in order to increase profits. He famously said, "The man who dies rich, dies disgraced," but he also paid his workers very low wages, sometimes as little as \$12 a week. Carnegie's wealth was built on the labor of his workers, many of whom lived in poverty despite working long hours.
- **Monopolistic practices:** Carnegie's steel company, along with several other major steel producers, engaged in monopolistic practices that limited competition and raised prices. This led to higher prices for consumers and smaller steel companies struggling to compete. Carnegie also used his wealth and influence to influence government policies and regulations in his favor, further entrenching his company's dominance in the industry.

Overall, while Carnegie made contributions to American industry and philanthropy, his business practices also had negative consequences for workers and competition in the steel industry.

Explain how Andrew Carnegie contributed to late 19th century using his quotes and primary sources

Andrew Carnegie was a prominent figure in the late 19th century, and his quotes and primary sources can shed light on his contributions to the era. Here are a few examples:

- On the importance of education: Carnegie believed that education was essential to individual and societal progress. In his 1889 essay "The Gospel of Wealth," he wrote, "The man who dies rich, dies disgraced." He argued that the wealthy had a moral obligation to use their wealth for the public good, particularly in the form of supporting education. He donated millions of dollars to establish public libraries, universities, and other educational institutions, which had a lasting impact on American society.
- On the benefits of innovation: Carnegie was an advocate of innovation and technological progress. In his 1885 book "Triumphant Democracy," he wrote, "Every step in human progress, from the first feeble stirrings in the abyss of time, has been made in the face of opposition, and every valuable thing in human society has been accomplished by the same uphill process." He embraced new technologies and production methods, which helped to increase productivity and reduce costs in American industry.
- On the role of competition: Despite engaging in monopolistic practices, Carnegie also recognized the importance of competition in driving progress. In his 1901 essay "The Empire of Business," he wrote, "Competition is the life of trade, and the absence of competition is death." He argued that competition was necessary for innovation and progress, and that businesses had a responsibility to compete fairly and honestly.

Overall, Andrew Carnegie contributed to the late 19th century through his philanthropy, advocacy of innovation, and recognition of the importance of competition. His quotes and primary sources help to illuminate his beliefs and actions and demonstrate the lasting impact he had on American society.

Sample Introductory Paragraph

Andrew Carnegie's success in the railroad and steel industries helped spark the second industrial revolution in the United States during the late 19th century. Despite giving away a good deal of his money in his later years, the son of Scottish immigrants often managed facilities with poor working conditions. In addition to the working conditions, Carnegie's corporations often paid workers meager wages. Finally, his business practices often led to strained labor relations between himself and the people who worked for him. Carnegie's contributions to U.S. manufacturing, personal financial success, and philanthropy often overshadow the tense working conditions, poor wages, and strained labor relations between the steel magnate and the people whose hard work enabled him to spend lavishly.

Sample Introductory Paragraph – Explained

Andrew Carnegie's success in the railroad and steel industries helped spark the second industrial revolution in the United States during the late 19th century. (Opening sentence sets the stage and introduces the time period and specific topic) Despite giving away a good deal of his money in his later years, the son of Scottish immigrants often managed facilities with poor working conditions. (Second sentence introduces the topic for the second paragraph – poor working conditions) In addition to the working conditions, Carnegie's corporations often paid workers meager wages. (Third sentence introduces the topic for the third paragraph – wages) Finally, his business practices often led to strained labor relations between himself and the people who worked for him. (Fourth sentence introduces the topic for the fourth paragraph – strained labor relations) *Carnegie's contributions to U.S. manufacturing, personal financial success, and philanthropy often overshadow the tense working conditions, poor wages, and strained labor relations between the steel magnate and the people whose hard work enabled him to spend lavishly.* (Fifth and last sentence of opening paragraph is the THESIS SENTENCE which sets the stage for the entire five paragraph essay)

Directions

Step 1 – review this entire packet and become familiar with its contents

Step 2 – submit the topic of your essay by the deadline as discussed in class

Step 3 – run at least five AI queries on different aspects of your topic – keep these as you will need to submit them with your essay

Step 4 - submit your thesis statement by the deadline as discussed in class

Step 5 – wrote an outline of your five-paragraph essay

Step 6 – write a draft of your five-paragraph essay

Step 7 – revise draft and submit final five-paragraph essay along with AI queries at the end of your assignment