The 5 Paragraph Essay- Step by Step

A) **Introductory Paragraph**- explain what the essay is about and include the **THESIS STATEMENT.** You will need to consider your TOPIC and the supporting points that you intend to use; then combine them to create your thesis.

\*Consider how you can “build up” to your thesis statement. We will discuss this in depth later!

Topic-“Macbeth is a character who, over the course of the play, loses his sense of morality.”

Supporting point one – He lies

Supporting point two – He betrays his friends

Supporting point three – He kills people

**Thesis = Due to the fact that he lies, betrays his friends, and kills people, Macbeth is a character who, over the course of the play, loses his sense of morality.**

B) First Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence (ex. The first way Macbeth loses his morality is when he lies.)

a. First Supporting Detail (ex. Macbeth lies to his wife.)

b. Develop first detail (quotes and examples are excellent ways to do this)

c. Explain the importance of the quote or example. Link it back to the topic.

\*Repeat a,b,c as needed.

C) Second Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence with a *transition phrase* (ex. *The second way* Macbeth loses his morality is when he betrays his friends.)

a. First Supporting Detail (ex. Macbeth betrays his friend\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.)

b. Develop first detail (quotes and examples are excellent ways to do this)

c. Explain the importance of the quote or example. Link it back to the topic.

\*Repeat a,b,c as needed.

D) Third Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence with a *transition* (ex*. The final way* Macbeth loses his morality is when he murders people.)

a. First Supporting Detail (ex. Macbeth murders \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.)

b. Develop first detail (quotes and examples are excellent ways to do this)

c. Explain the importance of the quote or example. Link it back to the topic.

\*Repeat a,b,c as needed.

E) Concluding Paragraph. Restate the thesis and supporting ideas in a new way. ex. “In the beginning of the play Macbeth, we see the title character as the model subject. However, as he lies, betrays his friends, and murders people, we see that his sense of morality is destroyed.”

The essay below demonstrates the principles of writing a basic essay. The different parts of the essay have been identified.

**The thesis statement is in bold**, the *topic sentences are in italics*, and each main point is underlined.

When you write your own essay, of course, you will not need to mark these parts of the essay. They are marked here just so that you can more easily identify them.

"A dog is man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. **Despite what dog lovers may want you to believe, cats make the most excellent house pets because of their companionship, civilized nature, and ease of care.**

*In the first place, people enjoy the companionship of cats.* Many cats are affectionate. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted, or scratched under the chin. Who can resist a purring cat? If they're not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers, or just about anything dangling from a string. They especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Contrary to popular opinion, cats can be trained. Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, a cat can be trained to avoid unwanted behaviour or perform tricks. Cats will even fetch!

*Secondly, cats are civilized members of the household.* Unlike dogs, cats do not bark or make other loud noises. Most cats don't even meow very often. They generally lead a quiet existence. Cats also don't often have "accidents." Mother cats train their kittens to use the litter box, and most cats will use it without fail from that time on. Even stray cats usually understand the concept when shown the box and will use it regularly. Cats do have claws, and owners must make provision for this. A tall scratching post in a favourite cat area of the house will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone. As a last resort, of course, cats can be declawed.

*Lastly, one of the most attractive features of cats as house pets is their ease of care.* Cats do not have to be walked. They get plenty of exercise in the house as they play, and they do their business in the litter box. Cleaning a litter box is a quick, painless procedure. Cats also take care of their own grooming. Bathing a cat is almost never necessary because under ordinary circumstances cats clean themselves. Cats are more particular about personal cleanliness than people are. In addition, cats can be left home alone for a few hours without fear. Unlike some pets, most cats will not destroy the furnishings when left alone. They are content to go about their usual activities until their owners return.

Cats are companions that are civilized and low maintenance. People who have small living quarters or less time for pet care should appreciate these characteristics of cats. However, many people who have plenty of space and time still opt to have a cat because they love the cat personality. In many ways, cats are the ideal house pet.