

Descriptive Essay: Body Paragraphs Outline Assignment

Directions: Write a full sentence outline of your three body paragraphs following the outline structure shown below. Your outline must be typed, double-spaced, and MLA-formatted. Write with strong, descriptive language to paint vivid word pictures.

Creative Essay Title

Thesis: type the complete thesis statement, underlined

- I. TOPIC SENTENCE: A broad statement of the main topic of the paragraph. It must directly relate back to the corresponding prong of the thesis. (i.e. Paragraph #1 = Prong #1)
 - A. FIRST SUPPORT: 2-3 sentences: Tell a more specific detail/idea about the topic and show support with quality evidence. Possible evidence options: Examples, Personal Experience, Anecdote, Description, Analogy, Observation, Facts.
 1. TRANSITION: Indicate the shift from your 1st supporting idea to your 2nd supporting idea. The transition may be as little one word that you will eventually attach as a sentence opener below or as much as an entire transition sentence.
 - B. SECOND SUPPORT: 2-3 sentences: Tell a *second* (different but related) detail about the topic and show support with quality evidence. Use a different type of evidence.
 - C. CONCLUDING SENTENCE (& Possible Bridge*): Brings the paragraph's topic to a close (and possibly transitions or bridges to the next paragraph's topic).

*The Bridge Transition may be included in either the concluding sentence of one paragraph or the topic sentence of the next paragraph. Either location is acceptable.

Parent/Student Checklist:

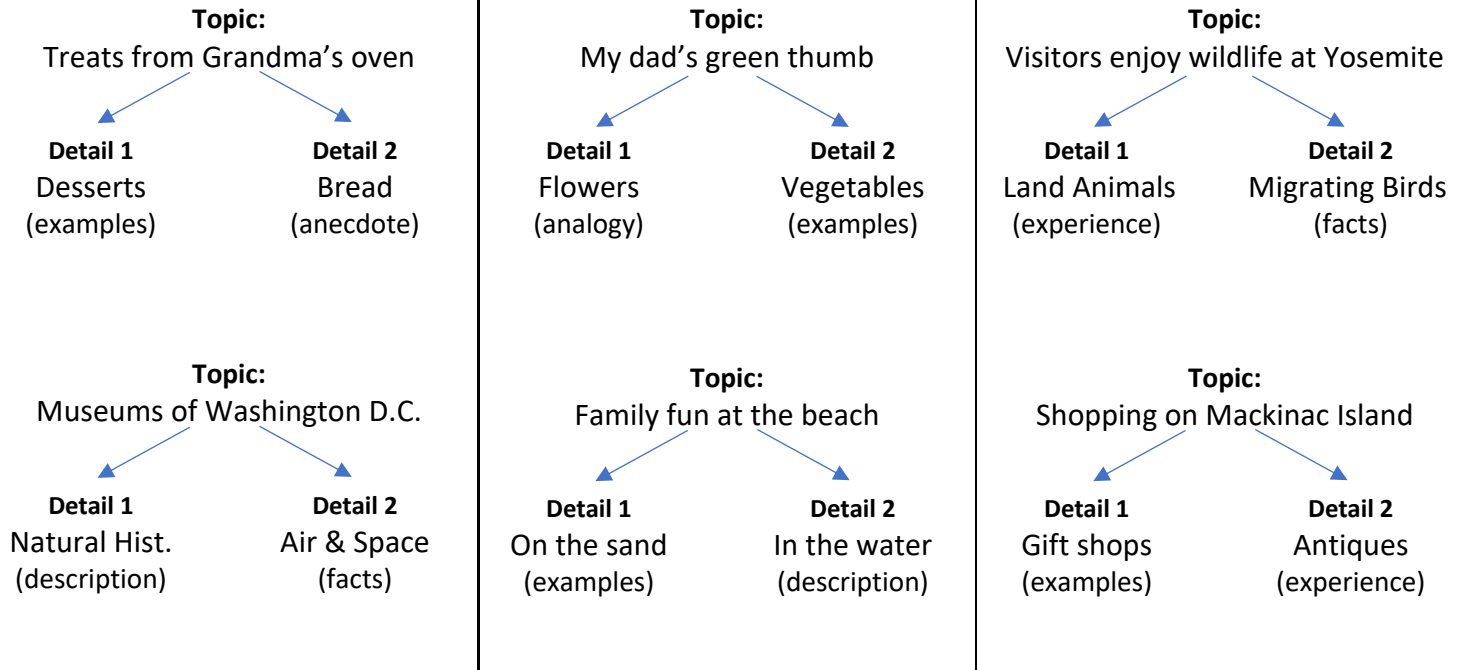
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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-8 sentences per body paragraph. | <input type="checkbox"/> Each paragraph includes a transition between the first and second support. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All sentences are complete and grammatically correct. (no sentence fragments) | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing includes vivid, descriptive language. (strong verbs, specific nouns, descriptive adj/adv, sensory details, figurative language) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraphs are outlined in same order as the three thesis prongs. | <input type="checkbox"/> MLA formatted (1-inch margins, 12-pt Times New Roman font) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Each paragraph includes at least 2 different kinds of supporting evidence such as examples, personal experience, anecdote, description, analogy, observation, or facts. | <input type="checkbox"/> Double-spaced |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Staple this page BEHIND the printed outline. |

I verify that my student has followed the outline shown above and included all elements as indicated on the checklist.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Example Paragraph Topics and Supporting Details



Tips for Supporting Details

- If you are struggling to find two separate but related areas that support your topic, your topic sentence may be too narrow. Try broadening your topic sentence to a wider category.
- Do not name your supporting details in your topic sentence. Keep the topic sentence broad and general and save the specific supporting details for later in the paragraph.

Incorrect Topic Sentence: At the beach, families enjoy experiences on the sand and in the water.
(This topic sentence gives away the two main details of the paragraph which will cause unnecessary repetition later in the paragraph.)

Correct Topic Sentence: At the beach, families enjoy many exciting outdoor experiences.
(This topic sentence uses a broader heading: a category under which both supporting details fit.)