

Name: Example

Period: _____

5 paragraph essay outline

Thesis Statement: Take this from the handout!

A good thesis will answer the question: Why is your topic the most important? It will help you stay focused and structure your essay.

Your Thesis:

Agriculture was the most important achievement
of the Aztec Civilization because ^(#1) it introduced
Chinampas, ^(#2) it provided foods that we eat today,
and crops could be grown without land or irrigation
^(#3)

Topic Sentences: A good topic sentence will support idea from the thesis statement. If someone were to read your thesis statement and ask "why?" what would you say?

Topic Sentence #1 (reason #1):

Aztec agriculture introduced the concept of
growing crops on Chinampas.

Supporting Details: Twigs and branches were bound together
to make rafts.

Supporting Details: Aztecs would then pile soil and
dirt on top of these rafts

Topic Sentence #2 (reason #2):

The Aztec farmers grew many crops that we eat today.

Supporting Details: Maize, beans, and squash were grown on chinampas

Supporting Details: Cocoa beans were used to make chocolate and for currency

Topic Sentence #3 (reason #3):

Aztec agriculture did not require farmland or irrigation.

Supporting Details: Lake Texcoco provided a constant water supply

Supporting Details: Chinampas were a good alternative for growing crops

Conclusion: A good conclusion will restate the thesis statement in a different way and summarize all three points discussed in the paper.

Your thesis re-stated in a different way:

Aztec agriculture demonstrated how chinampas could provide food, introduced foods such as maize and chocolate that we enjoy today, and could be accomplished without land and water from Lake Texcoco.