

#4

LANGUAGE LAB

5 PARAGRAPH ESSAY OUTLINE

Name _____ Period _____

Essay _____

Directions: Fill out the 5-paragraph outline before you begin typing your essay. It will help you stay focused as you work through each idea in your essay. You will turn this sheet in with your essay, so hang onto it.

Thesis Statement –

A good thesis statement will answer the prompt completely in one sentence. In an argumentative essay, you should take a firm stance in relation to one arguable position.

Your Thesis: Thomas Jefferson was the most important leader of the Enlightenment because he wrote the Declaration of Independence, designed many buildings still standing today, and founded the University of Virginia.

Topic Sentences –

A good topic sentence will develop one specific idea to support the thesis statement. If someone were to read your thesis statement and ask “why?” or “why not?” what would you say?

Topic Sentence #1: At the age of 34, Thomas Jefferson wrote the most important document in American History: The Declaration of Independence.

Example: The document outlined America's independence from Great Britain.

Example: _____

Topic Sentence #2: Not only was Thomas Jefferson a great writer, but he was also an accomplished architect.

Example: Designed his home at Monticello.

Example: Helped design other federal buildings such as the Rotunda building and the Virginia State capitol.

Topic Sentence #3: One of Thomas Jeffersons greatest achievements was helping found and design the University of Virginia.

Example: The university was founded in 1819.

Example: Classes started in 1825.

Conclusion –

A good conclusion will summarize the points introduced in the thesis statement and discussed in the essay. It also re-states the thesis statement in a different way than the introduction. The introduction and conclusion often use similar wording to complement each another. Finally, give a good conclusion will give the reader something interesting to think about. In an argumentative essay, this may include "call to action" which means you encourage the reader to do something as a result of reading your argument.

Your thesis re-stated in a different way: Thomas Jefferson helped America gain independence from Great Britain, designed Monticello as well as the Rotunda in Richmond and founded one of the oldest universities in the State of Virginia.