

The Basic Paragraph

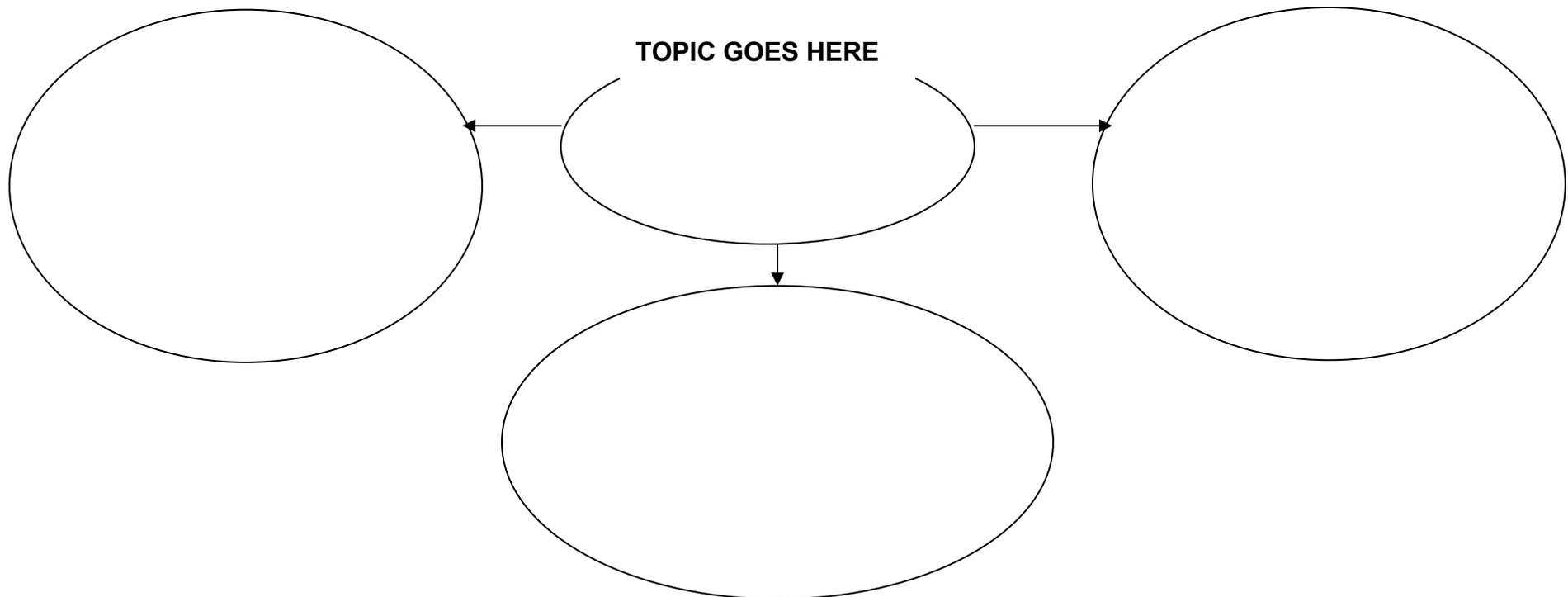
Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

- Begins with a clear **topic sentence** that introduces the paragraph's main idea.
(The main idea might be the answer to a question.)
- Includes **facts** and/or **examples** that support the main idea. These are called **concrete details**.
- Includes **commentary** sentences that explain what the concrete details mean and why they are important.
- Follows the rules of Standard English conventions. This means:
 - Every sentence is a complete sentence.
 - Words are spelled and used correctly.
 - Punctuation is properly applied.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Write a five-paragraph essay on: _____
Use the bubbles below to map your thoughts. Place one **concrete example** in each bubble. Then follow the essay organizer to develop your paragraphs. Make sure that each paragraph meets the standards of the **Lincoln HS Basic Paragraph** as



ESSAY ORGANIZER

Name _____
Date _____ Period _____

Introduction:

Write your **introduction** in this box. It should present the topic of your essay to your readers, and give just enough information to make them want to continue reading the rest of it. Try stating your introduction in three parts (from your bubble organizer) that can be handled in three paragraphs conveniently.

Body (sample paragraph structures)

Topic Sentence #1	Transition Topic Sentence #2	Transition Topic Sentence #3
Concrete detail or example to support your topic sentence #1	Concrete detail or example to support your topic sentence #2	Concrete detail or example to support your topic sentence #3
Concrete detail or example to support your topic sentence #1	Comment #1 to support your example	Concrete detail or example to support your topic sentence #3
Comment #1 to support your example	Concrete detail or example to support your topic sentence #2	Concrete detail or example to support your topic sentence #3
Comment #2 to support your example	Comment #2 to support your example	Comment #2 to support your example and transition to your conclusion

Conclusion:

Write your **conclusion** here. This should restate your introduction (**in other words**), and answer the question, "**So what?**" - What is important about what you have written? What should the reader think or do as a result of reading your essay?

Using the Essay Organizer as a guide, fill in the boxes below with the proper type of sentences. Then write your essay in paragraph form on a separate sheet of paper.

Name _____
Date _____ Period _____

Introduction:		
Topic Sentence #1	Topic Sentence #2	Topic Sentence #3
Conclusion:		

Rubric for the Five-Paragraph Essay

Name _____
Date _____ Period _____

CATEGORY	4 = Exceeds the Standard	3 = Meets the standard	2 = Partially meets the standard	1 = Attempted but does not meet the standard	0 = Not attempted	Score
Introduction (Organization)	There is a well-focused Thesis Statement that introduces the essay and clearly addresses all elements of the writing prompt.	Introduction clearly states the main topic, adequately addressing the writing prompt	Introduction is somewhat clear, but only partially addresses the writing prompt	Introduction does not address the writing prompt.	No introduction is present	
Support for Thesis (Concrete Details)	Each body paragraph contains a topic sentence and relevant, telling, quality concrete details that give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable. All supporting details serve to substantiate the thesis statement.	Each body paragraph contains a topic sentence that is adequately supported by relevant concrete details Most supporting details serve to substantiate the thesis statement.	Topic sentence is stated in some body paragraphs. Supporting details are relevant, but some key issues are unsupported. Support for the thesis statement is weak.	Topic sentence is weak. Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic. There is a seemingly random collection of information Thesis statement lacks proof.	No topic sentence is present OR no concrete details are present. The paragraph contains no facts, details, or examples.	
Commentary	Essay contains explanation, analysis, discussion, comparison and/or contrast that demonstrates mastery and depth of understanding.	Essay contains explanation, analysis, discussion, comparison and/or contrast that logically supports the concrete details	Essay contains explanation, analysis, discussion, comparison and/or contrast that is weak, incomplete, or partially illogical.	Essay contains explanation, analysis, discussion, comparison and/or contrast that is off topic or completely illogical.	No commentary is present. The paragraph contains no attempt to explain, discuss, analyze, evaluate, compare and/or contrast the factual information (concrete details) it presents.	
Conclusion (Organization)	The conclusion is strong and logical; provides a clear answer to the question, "So what?"	The conclusion is logical and adequately answers the question, "So what?"	The conclusion is logical, but does not answer the question, "So what?"	Conclusion is illogical	There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends.	
Conventions Grammar, Usage & Sentence Structure	The essay contains no errors in grammar, word usage or sentence structure.	The essay contains 1 or 2 errors in grammar, word usage or sentence structure.	The essay contains 3 or 4 errors in grammar, word usage or sentence structure.	The essay is readable, but contains 5 or more errors in grammar, word usage or sentence structure.	The essay is unreadable because of errors in grammar, word usage or sentence structure.	
Conventions Spelling & Punctuation	Essay contains no errors in spelling, capitalization or punctuation.	Essay contains 1 or 2 errors in spelling, capitalization or punctuation.	Essay contains 3 or 4 errors in spelling, capitalization or punctuation,	The essay is readable, but contains 5 or more errors in spelling, capitalization or punctuation	The essay is unreadable because of errors in spelling, capitalization or punctuation.	
Total						