Steps in writing a five-paragraph essay:

a. Carefully read the question.
b. Find the requirements, and decide how you will answer them in the middle 3 paragraphs.
c. Paragraph 1: This is the introductory paragraph. 1st) Find the topic sentence of the question, and use it or paraphrase it. 2nd) State the main idea of your essay in a thesis statement. 3rd) briefly summarize the main points you will make in the next three paragraphs. 4th) Try to have a transition word, phrase, or sentence between paragraphs.
d. Paragraphs 2, 3, 4: This is the meat of the essay. Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence similar to how you described this paragraph in the introduction. Follow with supporting sentences.
e. Paragraph 5: This is the conclusion of the essay. Begin by restating your thesis, and then state how your main points supported the thesis.

Essay Question Evaluation Form

Student Name _______________________________________________________

Grading: ______________ = 100 points

Grading criteria:

- Essay has five paragraphs including introduction and conclusion
- All paragraphs begin with appropriate topic sentence
- Supporting sentences explain the topic sentence
- Correct use of capital letters and punctuation
- Proper spelling and grammar
- Essay is typed and double spaced
- Clear sentences
- All requirements of the question are met
- Information is accurate
- Essay demonstrates thought and good understanding

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