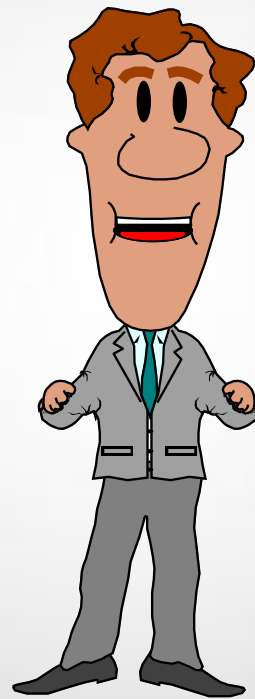


Is writing an essay a mystery to you?



Don't worry.
It's easy!



Paragraphs

- Introduction
- Topic Sentence
 - Topic with Controlling Idea
- Supporting Sentences
 - details
 - examples
- Concluding Sentence

Essays

- Introductory Paragraph
 - Thesis Statement
- Supporting Paragraphs (2-4)
 - Topic Sentence
 - Supporting Sentences
- Concluding Paragraph
 - Final Thoughts

The Introduction



The introduction ...

- introduces the topic.
- indicates how the topic is going to be developed.
- should be inviting; that is it should be interesting enough to make the reader want to keep reading.
- must contain the thesis statement – the last sentence.

The introductory paragraph should go from general statements to a specific one (the thesis statement)



Types of Introductions

- Factual statements or historical background
- A brief description
- The narration of an incident
- A question (be careful here)
- A shared experience

A vacation should be relaxing, but have you ever been on a trip where you did not have enough time to see everything? I recently had that experience when I traveled to Mexico. There are many beautiful sights and it was difficult for me to see everything in one visit. If you are planning a trip to Mexico, you must be sure to see the beach at Progreso, the Aztec ruin and the famous monument. These three places will insure that your trip is memorable.

What is a thesis statement?



The Thesis Statement is the most important sentence in the introduction. In fact, it is the most important sentence in the essay. *It is your answer to the question asked.*

1. The thesis should be expressed in a complete sentence. It should not be a question.

- Basketball stars in the US
- *Basketball stars are paid too much money.*
- What are the influences of TV on children?
- *Television may be a bad influence on children for three reasons.*

2. The thesis expresses an opinion, attitude or idea. It does not simply announce the topic.

- I am going to write about world hunger.
- *Hunger is a problem affecting children around the world.*
- I would like to tell you about my family.
- *My family taught me to be independent at an early age.*

3. The thesis should express an opinion. It should not express a fact.

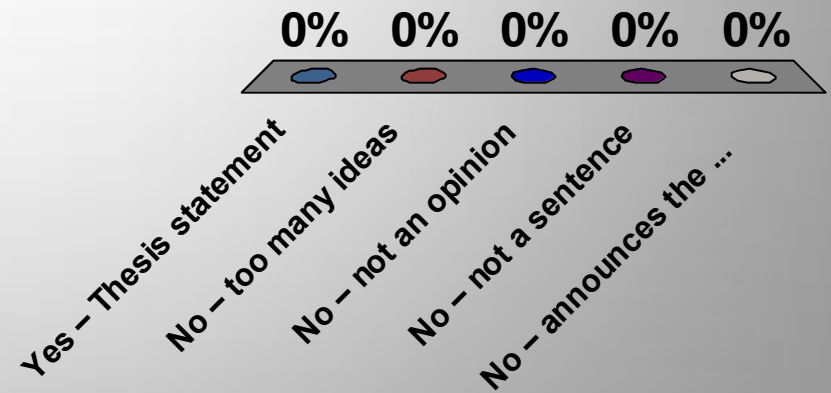
- War is destructive.
- *The war in Iraq killed thousands of people, ruined the land for agriculture, and destroyed the economy of the country.*
- Pets need care.
- *Pets need supervision, frequent health check-ups, and vaccinations.*

4. The thesis statement should express only one idea about the topic.

- When I first went to Japan, I was surprised at the friendliness of the people, and I liked the way food tasted.
- *When I first went to Japan, I was surprised at the friendliness of the people.*
- *When I first went to Japan, I was surprised at how good the food tasted.*

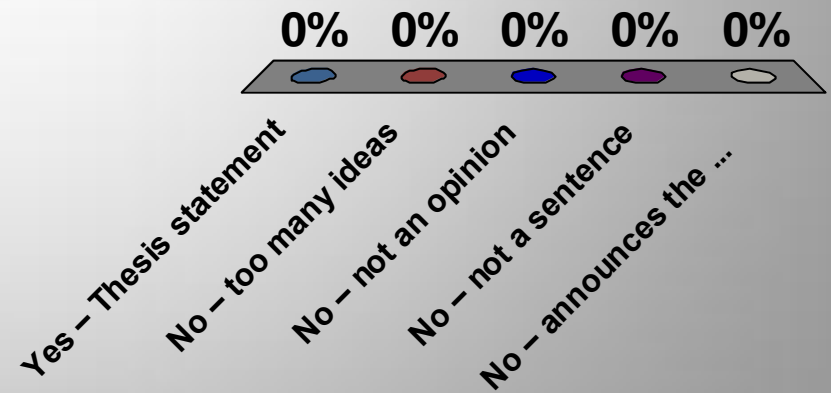
I am going to tell you why I moved to the United States.

1. Yes – Thesis statement
2. No – too many ideas
3. No – not an opinion
4. No – not a sentence
5. No – announces the topic



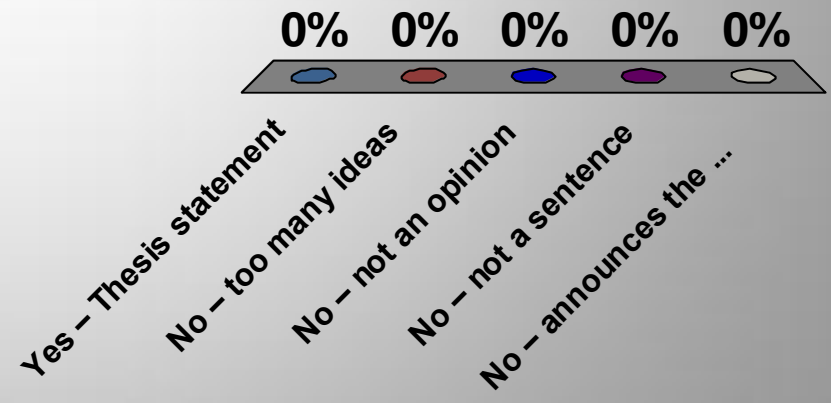
To produce a good picture, a photographer must pay attention to composition, color and lighting.

1. Yes – Thesis statement
2. No – too many ideas
3. No – not an opinion
4. No – not a sentence
5. No – announces the topic



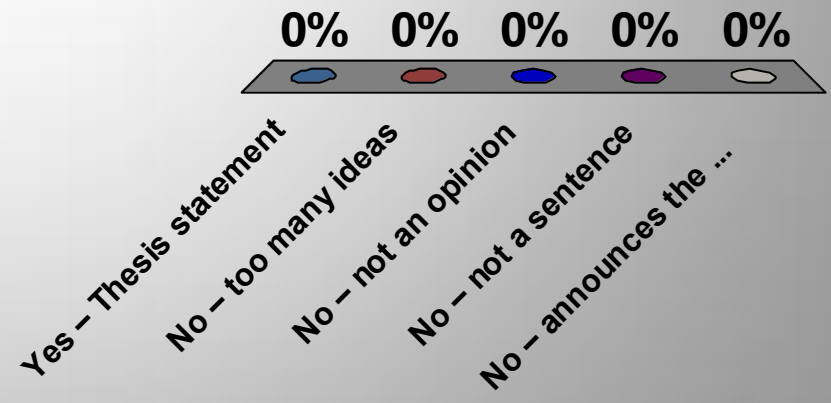
Unemployment rose 5 percent last year.

1. Yes – Thesis statement
2. No – too many ideas
3. No – not an opinion
4. No – not a sentence
5. No – announces the topic



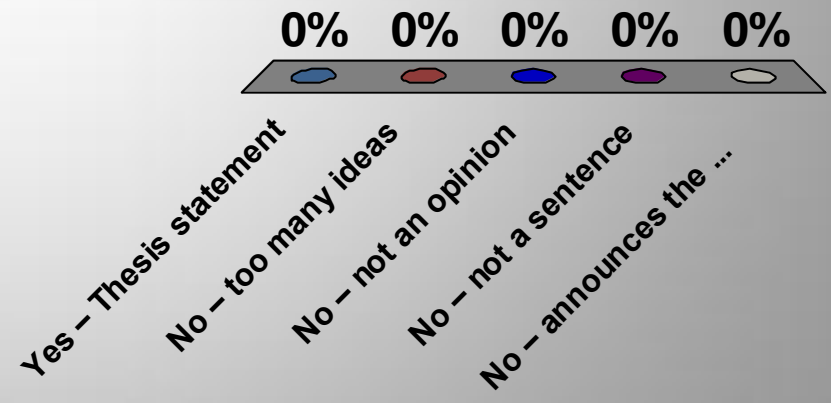
American cars compared to European cars.

1. Yes – Thesis statement
2. No – too many ideas
3. No – not an opinion
4. No – not a sentence
5. No – announces the topic



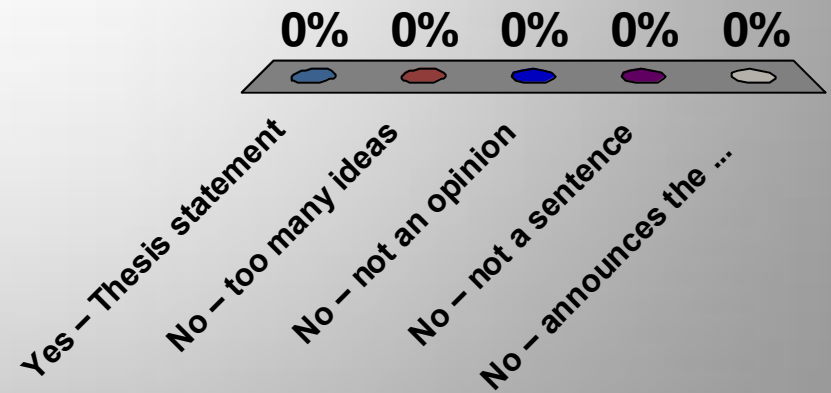
A nutritious diet is important.

1. Yes – Thesis statement
2. No – too many ideas
3. No – not an opinion
4. No – not a sentence
5. No – announces the topic



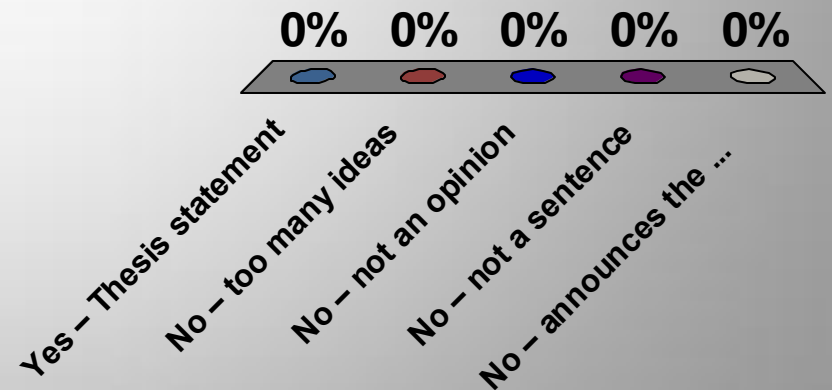
There are similarities and differences between a college and a university.

1. Yes – Thesis statement
2. No – too many ideas
3. No – not an opinion
4. No – not a sentence
5. No – announces the topic



People who walk regularly receive both physical and emotional benefits.

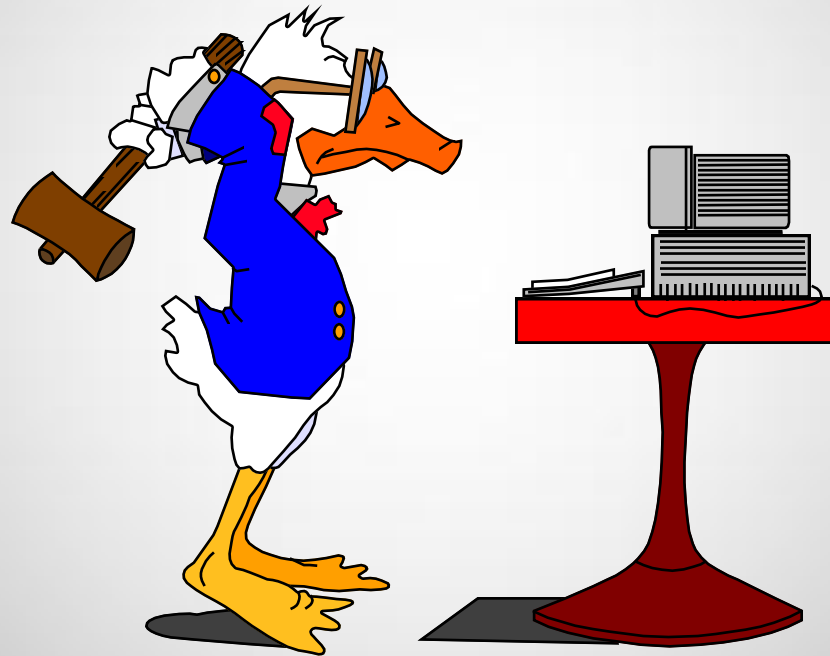
1. Yes – Thesis statement
2. No – too many ideas
3. No – not an opinion
4. No – not a sentence
5. No – announces the topic



Body Paragraphs

- Begin with a topic sentence that supports the thesis.
- Support the topic sentence with very specific details.
- Use transition words/signals for examples within the paragraph NOT between the paragraphs.

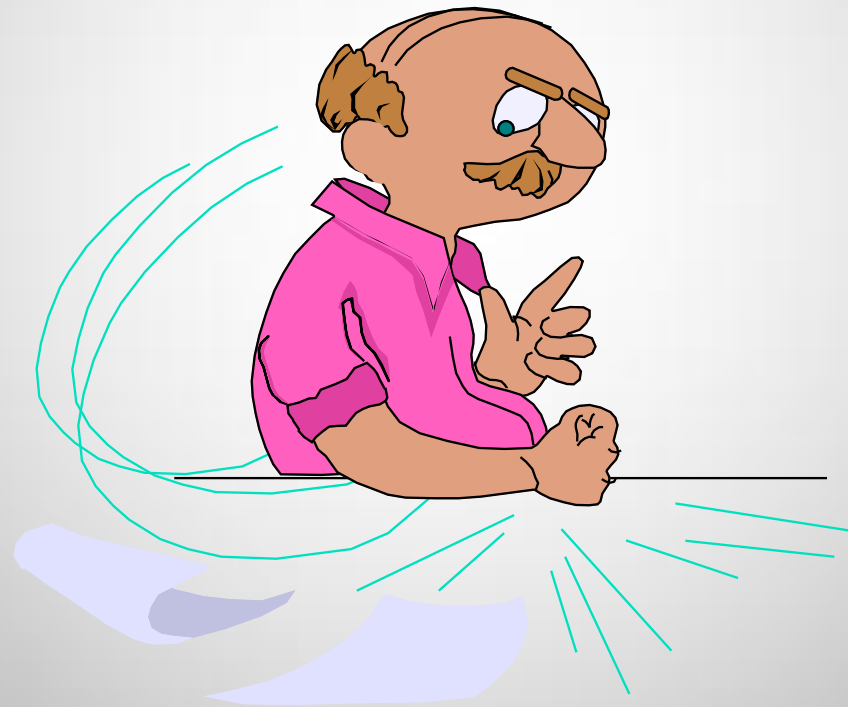
Finish with a bang!



The conclusion can:

- Restate your thesis idea
- Summarize your main points
- Make a prediction
- Suggest results or consequences
- Suggest a solution

The conclusion must not bring up a new topic.



There are, of course, many more things to visit when you are in Mexico, but the beach at Progreso, the Aztec ruin, and the famous monument represent some of the more significant and beautiful sights to see. When you go to Mexico, visit these sights and you will be guaranteed a fond memory after you go home.