

Lesson 21: You will be Able to Understand and Identify the Parts of an Essay Using a Graphic Organizer

Purpose of Lesson 21: You will be able to understand and identify the parts of an essay using a graphic organizer.

Skills: critical thinking, reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing.

Words to Learn

body - the main part: *In an essay the body contains the supporting paragraphs.*

conclusion - the end: *The crowd left at the conclusion of the concert.*

graphic organizer - a map or drawing to help organize ideas: *Graphic organizers help you arrange your ideas.*


introduction - the beginning: *The director spoke at the introduction of the movie.*

supporting - explains or proves with examples: *The supporting paragraphs help you to make your idea clear when writing.*

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Directions: Read the conversation below and complete the exercises that follow.

1




How's the essay content going?

2




Okay, but I can't decide which **graphic organizer** to enter for the parts of an essay.

3




Maybe I can help. Show me what you have done.

4




My first idea is to use my "write" hand. Each finger represents a part of the essay.

5




There are three major elements to an essay. The thumb is the (1) **introduction** paragraph; the index, middle and ring fingers are the (2) **supporting** paragraphs; and the pinky is your (3) **conclusion** paragraph.

6



Right. Five paragraphs and five fingers!



- Bella's idea for remembering the parts of an essay was helpful to her.
- The graphic organizer she used helped her to "see" the plan or layout of her essay as she started to write.
- Different ideas will work for different people.

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Directions: See if you like Bella's first idea. Look at the table below and then answer the questions in the quiz.

Three Major Elements of an Essay

Introduction Paragraph	Supporting Paragraph # 1	Conclusion Paragraph
	Supporting Paragraph # 2	
	Supporting Paragraph # 3	


Continued after Quiz 1

7




That was good, Bella. Tell me about the other idea you had.

8




Well, I also thought of a hamburger. You know the top bun, that meat, the lettuce, tomato and the cheese in the middle, and of course the bottom bun.

9



I know that one from **my** English class: the bottom bun wraps up the filling, just like the conclusion "wraps up" (ends) the essay.

10



I thought I was being original, but the idea is still a great way to picture the parts of an essay in your head. Look at my drawing.

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Continued after Quiz 2

11



So how about your last idea?

12

It's an animal with a head, a body and a tail. I call it the Essaysaurus.



13



I love it! The head is the beginning, the body has the supporting paragraphs and the tail is the end. How will you show the number of sentences for each paragraph? (The introduction and conclusion have at least three sentences).

14

Each supporting paragraph has at least five sentences and three supporting points for each paragraph.

