

The 5 Paragraph Essay

I. Introductory Paragraph

A. Grab the Reader's Attention

1. historical review - briefly discuss the background of the topic
2. anecdote - tell a brief story about your topic
3. surprising statement - tell a disgusting/shocking/joyful fact about your topic
4. famous person - tell what a celebrity (alive or deceased) said or did about your topic
5. declarative* - simply tell the reader what your topic is about

B. State your topic

1. Introduce your topic
2. Thesis Statement
 - a) state a specific idea related to the topic
 - b) include your beliefs/opinion on this specific idea
3. List your 3 talking points

II. Body - 1st Paragraph

- A. Include strongest argument or example
- B. the first sentence should be a transition by directly relating to the thesis
- C. the last sentence should be a transition by mentioning an idea in the next paragraph

III. Body - 2nd Paragraph

- A. Include the 2nd strongest argument or example
- B. the first sentence should be a transition by directly relating to paragraph 2
- C. the last sentence should be a transition by mentioning an idea in the next paragraph

IV. Body - 3rd Paragraph

- A. Include the 3rd strongest argument or example
- B. the first sentence should be a transition by directly relating to paragraph 3
- C. the last sentence should be a transition by mentioning an idea in the next paragraph

V. Conclusion

- A. Summarize your points from paragraphs 2, 3, 4
- B. Restate your thesis statement
- C. the last sentence should close the essay by giving the reader something to think about

SAMPLE 5 PARAGRAPH ESSAY

I. Introductory Paragraph

A. Grab the Reader's Attention

1. msn.com: avg. teen costs \$1000/month

B. State your topic

1. teens spend a lot of money/time on clothes

2. Thesis Statement

- a) Pop culture sets fashion trends
- b) teens buy clothes based on fashion trends

3. Talking points

- a) fashion today
- b) fashion in the 50s
- c) fashion in the 80s

II. Body - 1st Paragraph: Fashion of today

A. Beiber hair

B. skinny jeans - Vanessa Hudgens

C. Bohemian dresses - Taylor Swift

III. Body - 2nd Paragraph: Fashion of the 50s

A. poodle skirts - dancing to Elvis

B. leather jackets - actor James Dean

C. Converse sneakers (Chuck Taylor All Stars) - Boston Celtics basketball team

IV. Body - 3rd Paragraph: Fashion of the 80s

A. shoulder pads - TV show Dynasty

B. stomach-baring tops - singer Madonna

C. legwarmers - movie Footloose

V. Conclusion

A. every generation has its own fashion

B. teens buy clothes based on what celebrities wear

C. will any fashion trends of today show up in the future?

Suzy Jones

Miss Sherk

English 8H

March 1, 2011

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?

According to msn.com, the average American 14-year-old costs his or her parents approximately \$1000 per month. A large chunk of this money is spent on, you guessed it, clothing. Teens of the past and present have always been known for their focus on fashion trends, what's in and what's out. How do teens agree on what is currently cool when it comes to clothes? One word - celebrities. Teens have always, and will always, buy clothes based on the fashion trends determined by pop culture. From the 1950s until today, famous singers, actors, and sports players have influenced the clothing on which teens choose to spend their (or, more likely, their parents') money.

In 2011, several young celebrities have become famous not only for their talents, but also for their style. Today it is not uncommon for a girl to profess to her friends that she has a bad case of "Beiber Fever". Justin Beiber, currently one of the hottest teen pop stars, caused a sensation with his long, silky hair. It was not surprising that boys across the country rushed out to pay for a haircut similar to Beiber's. Singer Taylor Swift's immense popularity has also been prompting teen girls to copy her style, which includes the most recent Bohemian dresses Swift has been spotted wearing around Los Angeles. The successful "High School Musical" books and movies made Vanessa Hudgens' skinny jeans a popular choice among teens. Today's teens are spending a lot of money trying to look like their favorite celebrities, something they've been doing for many decades.

Pop culture of the past began to influence fashion as early as the 1950s. Actor James Dean's black leather jacket made thousands of teenage boys feel tough and dangerous. Rock and Roll burst onto the music scene with Elvis Presley. Girls all across America were seen dancing up a storm to his music in big, flowing poodle skirts. Originally meant to be practical on the basketball court, Converse sneakers, also known as Chuck Taylor's, were worn by the hugely popular Boston Celtics. Teenage boys proved that these hightop shoes looked cool on and off the court. Even though fashion trends changed with time, later generations also had specific styles loved by teens.

Thirty years after the 1950s, teens found themselves embracing a whole new style of clothing in the 1980s. The show 'Dynasty' was watched in millions of homes and led girls to start pumping up their jackets with shoulder pads like the rich, beautiful women on television. Dance movies such as 'Flashdance' and 'Footloose' inspired the use of legwarmers as part of an every day outfit, not just a dance accessory. And perhaps one of the most famous pop culture singers of the 1980s, Madonna, caused shocked parents to disapprove of their daughters stomach baring shorty tops. Regardless, teens still found the money to buy into the trends.

Year after year teens across the country will change their minds about what to wear. Popular celebrities will continue to influence these decisions. From poodle skirts to skinny jeans, the last 60 years show that teens are willing to pay the price to imitate their favorite singers and actors. And who knows, maybe Justin Beiber's hair will be considered cool again in another thirty years.