

# Schematic: Five-Graf Essay

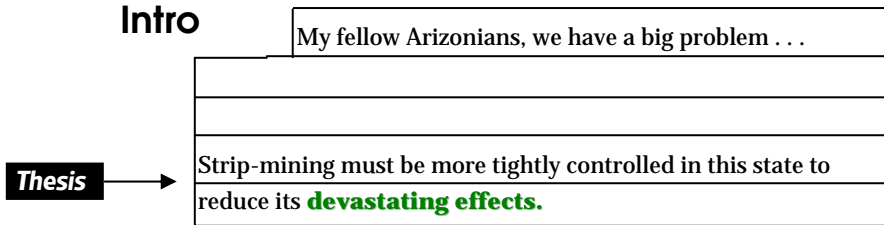
At its most basic level, an essay consists of these simple parts:

- an intro paragraph with a **thesis** stated at or near the end
- body paragraphs, each beginning with a **topic sentence (TS)**
- **signpost** and **echo words** in the topic sentence that tie it to the thesis
- a conclusion

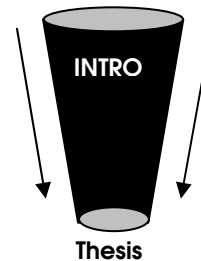
Here is a brief schematic of the intro and body graf at work:

## Control Strip-Mining Now!

Intro

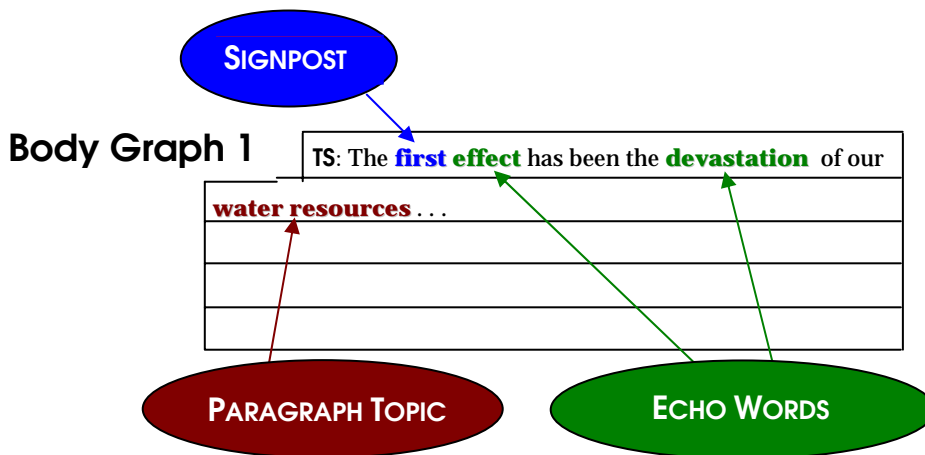


The thesis must be debatable and predict the body of the essay: in this case, the reader expects to read about a series of devastating "effects" of strip-mining in the paragraphs that follow.



### Funnel Effect

Like a funnel, the intro paragraph must begin broad and gradually narrow your reader's focus down to the thesis statement—the intro's last sentence.



### Signpost and Echo Words

The topic sentence should contain a **SIGNPOST** word or phrase (*first, second, in addition, another, an even more important effect*) and **ECHO** words that repeat or echo key words from the thesis.

### Body Graph 2 Signpost Word

Topic Sentence: A **second effect** has been the widespread **destruction of public lands**.  
Echo Word Echo Word Paragraph Topic

### Body Graph 3 Signpost Word

Topic Sentence: The **third effect** has been the **disruption of our citizens' lives**.  
Echo Word Echo Word Paragraph Topic