

BASIC PLAN OF A TYPICAL FIVE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY

INTRODUCTION

Background Information

Gets reader's attention using:

Facts and statistics

Quotations

Anecdotes

Questions

INTRODUCTION

Thesis Statement

States purpose / *argument / claim*

FIRST BODY PARAGRAPH

Topic Sentence

States first main point

Provides supporting details

Concluding sentence

SECOND BODY PARAGRAPH

Topic Sentence

States second main point

Provides supporting details

Concluding sentence

BODY

THIRD BODY PARAGRAPH

Topic Sentence

States third main point

Provides supporting details

Concluding sentence.

CONCLUSION

Makes final comments by:

Summarizing main points

Drawing a conclusion

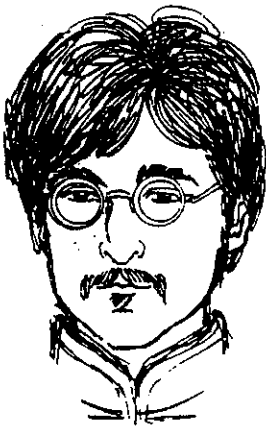
Making a prediction

Offering a solution

CONCLUSION

Read the following five-paragraph essay that a student wrote about the impact of John Lennon's music. Notice that the first line of each new paragraph is indented.

John Lennon: A Musician for All Time



Imagine the world without John Lennon; it's almost inconceivable. How can one envision a world without the melodies and lyrics of the man who transformed the way people feel about popular music? John Lennon did not set out to leave an indelible impact on the world. His beginnings were no different from those of thousands of other teenage hopefuls who went from club to club in pursuit of a recording contract. After much hard work, John Lennon and the other members of the Beatles became world famous. But at the pinnacle of his success, Lennon had the courage and vision to move beyond contemporary rock 'n' roll. He broke away from the most popular group of all time and ultimately emerged as his generation's most influential voice. More than any other contemporary artist, Lennon spoke in a universal language that transcended generational lines, combined musical forms, and crossed geographical borders.

Lennon's inspirational music and his persona provided a vehicle for transcending generational divisions that existed while he was alive and still exist today. During the 1960s and 1970s, when Lennon was an active musician, people of all ages admired and responded to his music. So why are so many members of the '90s generation heavily influenced by a '60s musician? Perhaps it is because Lennon speaks to the inner voice in each of us that questions the status quo and strives for a better world. Today, Lennon's music still links his generation to many others.

John Lennon was also a unique artist because of his ability to combine musical forms. Not only did he explore new directions in music, but he embraced them, reinventing himself over and over again, despite offending the millions of fans who mourned the breakup of the Beatles. As he matured as a musician, Lennon incorporated classical music into rock 'n' roll songs. He also added some of the Hindu sound into his compositions. Lennon's music expresses the full range of human emotion, from the introspective mood of "Nowhere Man" to the playful refrain of "Yellow Submarine." Lennon was always surprising his fans with new and creative combinations of musical forms.

John Lennon was tremendously successful in crossing geographical borders through his powerful lyrics, such as those of his song "Imagine." Lennon sang, "I hope that someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one." He suggested that people of all nationalities should join together. He believed in the unification of all people everywhere. As the world becomes a smaller place and geographic borders melt away, the ability to communicate effectively will become vital. Lennon understood this and tried to teach people to get along with one another.

Although John Lennon is no longer with us, his music is still very much a part of people's lives. He was a remarkable individual who spoke in a language that everyone could relate to. During a turbulent time, his optimistic message of peace, love, and happiness emerged. And today, people still refer to the themes of his songs and look to them for answers. Perhaps this is because Lennon was tremendously successful in melting down barriers and borders between people and in finding ways to unify them.