Academic Support Center

Writing Center

Parts of an Essay

Intro has three main parts:

1. Opening/hook
2. General details
3. Thesis/point being proven

Example: Everyone know that Dory the fish has troubles with her memory. In Finding Dory, the sequel to Finding Nemo, she discovers the strength to overcome her forgetfulness to find her parents and her way back home. Finding Dory is a great movie because it is about overcoming difficulties despite several physical and mental obstacles.

Body paragraphs have five parts:

1. Topic sentence - tells your reader what you will discuss
2. Supporting detail - provides a statement about topic
3. Evidence - quote, paraphrase, or example of statement
4. Explanation - reason why evidence proves thesis/topic
5. Concluding sentence - tells your reader what to realize about paragraph's topic

Example: Dory’s most challenging obstacle is her short-term memory loss. In an instant, she can forget what just happened. Marlin goes too far after he tells Dory to forget because “that’s what [she’s] best at.” He is mad at her for accidentally hurting Nemo, but he upsets her even more because he made her disability the cause of harm. Despite his rude comment, Dory tries even harder to remember and locate her parents.
Conclusion has three parts:

1. Reworded thesis

2. Reworded #5 from each body paragraph

3. Big #5 for whole paper - tells your reader what to realize or think about after reading the paper

Example: *Finding Dory*’s theme of hope and strength to overcome obstacles is what makes this movie worth watching. Despite her disability and doubt from others, she reunites with her family and friends. This is a great sequel which reveals unanswered questions from Finding Nemo.