

Five Paragraph Autobiographical Essay



All about you A five paragraph essay obviously has five paragraphs and is a simple structure that is used in most essays in English and Social Studies in one form or another. It begins with an introduction, which includes a generalization, a thesis statement and three details that support the thesis, followed by three paragraphs that support the thesis, and a concluding paragraph that restates the thesis and summarizes the main points. And what easier topic to write about than you!

Introduction

1. **Sentence one: Generalization** A generalization is a statement about your topic that will interest the reader. This can be a question, an observation or a theory about people. It should lead into the thesis that follows. For instance, "*Are teenagers always complicated people?*" or "*The personalities most people develop are a result of their families and upbringing.*" or "*Whether they know it or not, all people have values which influence their behaviour.*"
2. **Sentence two: Thesis** A thesis statement is the main idea your are trying to prove through this essay. This can be a simple statement that describes you, for instance "*I am a complex person with many interesting characteristics.*" Or you can discuss what you feel is the most important part of your character, "*My values are the most important part of me.*" Or you could discuss the influences that have created you, "*My family, friends and community have helped to shape the person I have become.*"
3. **Sentence three Three supporting details** You must have three supporting details that support your thesis and these will be written in this sentence. For instance "*My main qualities are my sense of humour, my compassion for others and my shyness around strangers.*" Or "*The things I value in this life are my religion, my family and the rights of others.*" Or "*My family has given me my values, my friends have provided me with fun and a sense of self worth, and my community has made me a well rounded person.*"

Body of the Essay

1. **Organization** Since this essay will use the five-paragraph format, you will need to think of a structure that will lend itself to this format. There are several possible ways of organizing your ideas.
 - You may chose to use the chronological approach (describing yourself over time), but remember that all the paragraphs will have to work together to contribute to your thesis.
 - You may wish to use cause and effect, showing various influences that have shaped you
 - You may wish to use example and illustration, using incidents from your past that show something about you
2. **Three main points** Remember also that you must have three supporting details that support your thesis and these will form the three paragraphs that are the body of your essay. Your structure and your main points will have to fit into this form.

Conclusion Restate your thesis and summarize your main points, then make some kind of concluding statement.

Who AM I?

Experience makes the man, or so it is said. By telling you some of my experiences, I will show you what kind of person I am. I am compassionate, amusing and as my mom says, very geeky. The following three anecdotes will demonstrate what I mean.

I really like animals, and I like to think I am compassionate towards them. Last winter I was walking home from school in freak spring blizzard. In fact, my rural school had just been shut down because of a big storm and the farm kids were waiting for the buses to arrive. As a town kid, I had to walk, and as I passed by an old deserted store I could hear some strange noises coming from within. Ever curious, I pried open the door and once my eyes adjusted to the darkness I could make out some movement in the back corner. It turned out to be a stray dog who had recently given birth to three puppies. Miraculously they were all still alive and with my mom's help I was able to get them to our house where I set them up in the garage. Every day I had to check on them, bring them food and water and clean up after them. I am proud to say that they all lived, and I found good homes for all the puppies, even though I wanted to keep them. Mama dog, who we call Chinook, is still with us.

And speaking of Chinook, that brings me to my next point, how amusing I am! Not to be conceited or anything, but my friends and family all tell me how funny I am. In fact, last year I dressed as an old-fashioned schoolgirl (no mean feat as I am a 6' tall guy) and decked Chinook out in a lambskin. Then off to school we went with "Mary had a little lamb" playing on the ghetto blaster. It was all just so funny. Unfortunately my schoolteachers and the principal did not find this altogether a blast, which accounts in part for why I am taking my grade twelve again.

I am really looking forward to online school because I really love computers. I am always trying new things, from gaming, to web design. My latest passion is for digital animation. My mom calls me a geek, and I guess I am. In fact, one of my earliest memories is when I was about five or so and I got lost in Future Shop in Edmonton. I wasn't scared or anything, but after 40 minutes of frantic searching, my mom found me tapping away on a keyboard. I have no idea what I was doing, but I do remember that Commodore PC-20-1 was quite a beast! Nothing like what we use today!

I have had a lot of experiences in my 17 years of life, and these are just a few that will show you who I am. Compassionate animal lover, class clown and computer geek, that's me! It's a strange combination of characteristics that make me a unique and special person.

The People in My Life

It's people who make the difference in the lives of most people. There are three people in my life who have had a strong impact on the person who I have become. From my Uncle Dave, I have learned courage. From my grandfather, the value of hard work, and from my sister Mary Ellen I have learned to appreciate the little things in life. Without my family, I would not be where I am today.

My Uncle Dave is one of the bravest men I know. Is courage is not the heroics of a firefighter or a policeman, but the bravery of someone who has overcome personal tragedy and gone on with his life. Last year he lost his wife and two kids to a drunk driver. Many men would have become bitter, angry or turned to drugs or alcohol. Not to say that Uncle Dave did not have moments of despair because he was very sad for a long time, but he went on with his life, kept working at his job and now does volunteer work speaking at high schools about the dangers of drunk driving. This has influenced me by teaching me that no matter how bad things get, we still must go on. We still have to remember others around us even when our own lives are filled with tragedy. In my own life, I try not to let things get me down, but to try to help out others, just as my Uncle Dave has shown me.

Uncle Dave is my dad's younger brother, the son of my grandfather Ed Morgan. Ed came to Canada from the U.S. when he was 16. He worked as a logger for several years, until he got married and had three kids. At that time he started work as a truck driver. Money was tight, but he drove his truck on long routes to put food on the table. Even when he was diagnosed with diabetes, he still went out on the road every week and when he got home from those long drives, he worked on the house which he built himself. My grandfather works hard every day. He helps my dad and my uncles if they need some carpentry work. When they have no work to do, he helps out at the church or at the neighbours. From my grandfather, I have learned many woodworking skills. But more than that, he has taught me that if you want to get ahead in life you need to have a good work ethic. With my grandfather's example, I have started my own small business and I know with the determination I have learned from him, it will be a success.

My sister Mary Ellen came as a surprise to my parents, as she was born when I was 13 years old. At first I was not too impressed with the idea of a little kid around the house, but she is so much fun to be with. Every new day brings new surprises and everything she sees brings her so much excitement it is contagious. When I take her outside, a flower, a caterpillar or a cloud can catch her attention. Suddenly I find myself looking at these things with renewed interest. It really is an amazing world and Mary Ellen reminds me of that every day. I thank God that she came into my life to show me all the wonderful little things that I used to ignore.

I know what real courage is. I understand how important it is to work at something. I see the beauty in the little things in life. For this and so much more I have to thank my family, my Uncle Dave who showed me what it means to be brave, my grandfather who shared his work ethic, and my sister who re-introduced me to all the wonders of the world. Without these people, I would not be the person I am today.