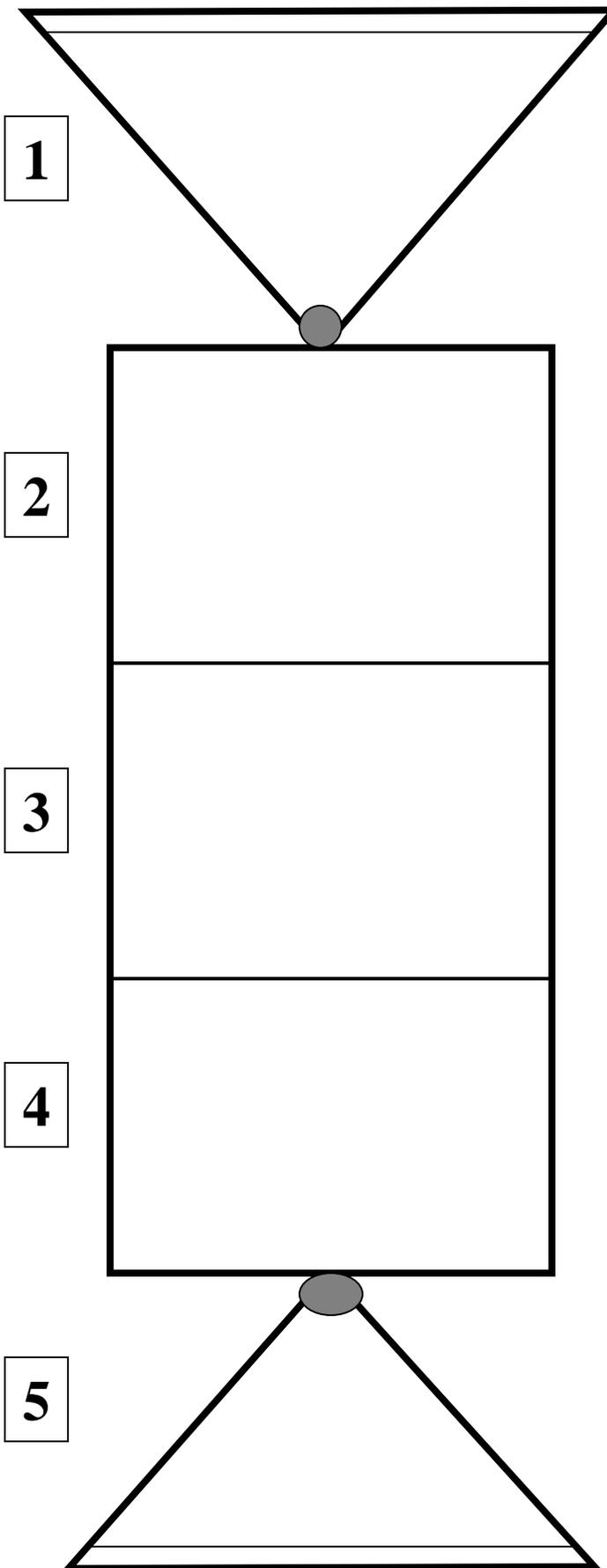


# 5 Paragraph Essay Format

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**1) INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH** (The purpose is to introduce your topic, provide background information, and take a position/make an argument.)

- 1<sup>ST</sup> sentence – **HOOK SENTENCE** – introduce the general topic, not your specific answer. Say something interesting that makes people want to read your essay.

- Middle of Intro Paragraph – Narrow your topic, focus your idea. Provide **BACKGROUND INFORMATION** and **CONTEXT** that will help the reader understand your thesis.

- **THESIS** – Last sentence of the introduction, this is the point of your paper, your answer to the question, your claim. Thesis must be arguable, direct, clear, and organized.

\_\_\_ **IS** \_\_\_ **BECAUSE** \_\_\_, \_\_\_, **AND** \_\_\_.

**2/3/4) – BODY/SUPPORT PARAGRAPHS** (These paragraphs support your thesis by providing examples and explanations to prove your point.)

**Topic Sentence (TS)** – answer to the question in one sentence; what you will support in the rest of the paragraph; what your topic is and what your paragraph will say about it

**Concrete Evidence (CE)** – evidence, an example; may have example from news, literature, observation, life, etc. (think about what the question is and what the best example is)

**Commentary (CM)** – explain how your CE fits with your topic sentence and proves your thesis

**Counter Argument (CA)** – introduce a possible counterclaim, then redirect to your point; show how the other view/understanding is inferior to your own; concession and refutation

**Closing sentence (CS)** – to finish the paragraph; gives closure

**5) CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH** (Concludes essay by restating argument, reviewing key points, and applying your thoughts to the reader's life.)

- 1<sup>ST</sup> sentence – **RESTATED THESIS** – Using different words, but the same idea, restate your argument

- Review **KEY INFO** from body paragraphs. Do NOT add new examples/CE.

- **END STRONG** – The last sentence should apply your ideas to the reader's life. Show how your analysis/argument can be useful in the real world. Your goal is to make the reader keep thinking about your topic even after he/she is done reading.