



## COM 7: Visual Organizer

This handout will help you organize and develop the main points for your writing. Remember that this structure is simply a place to start, and it is likely that an essay or other writing project will deviate from the five-paragraph format. Feel free to add boxes as you need them.

### Key Terms

- The **introduction** is the first paragraph. It provides your reader with background information and a basic overview of your argument and often includes your thesis.
- The **thesis** is short a statement which sums up the primary point you are hoping to prove, explain, or argue.
- A **topic sentence** is the first sentence of a body paragraph; it conveys what the paragraph is about and how it relates to your thesis.
- **Support** is anything you use to illustrate or prove the main point of a paragraph, such as facts, expert opinion, observations, and anecdotes.
- The **conclusion** is the last paragraph that sums up main points and brings finality to your writing. It will reiterate your thesis, which should be stated in a new way.

**Introduction** Ideas:

Thesis Statement:

### Body Paragraphs

Topic Sentence:

Support 1	Support 2	Support 3
↓	↓	↓
Why is this important?	Why is this important?	Why is this important?



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Topic Sentence:

Support 1	Support 2	Support 3
↓	↓	↓
Why is this important?	Why is this important?	Why is this important?

Topic Sentence:

Support 1	Support 2	Support 3
↓	↓	↓
Why is this important?	Why is this important?	Why is this important?

Conclusion Ideas:

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