**Structure of an essay**

An essay is a piece of writing made up of a number of paragraphs. Each paragraph has a specific role in an essay. In a five-paragraph essay, the first paragraph is an introduction; the second, third, and fourth paragraphs form the body of the essay; and the fifth paragraph is a conclusion ).

**1. Introduction of the essay**

The first paragraph of an essay should introduce the reader to the essay topic. It should create interest in the essay, outline the writer’s main ideas, and suggest how these ideas will be presented within the body of the essay. The introduction consists of three main elements: a **hook**, **building sentences**, and a **thesis statement**.

**1. Hook**

The first sentence (or sentences) of an essay should catch the reader’s attention. It introduces the topic of the essay in an interesting way.

**2. Building sentences**

After the hook, the following sentences should provide background information to give readers some context about the topic. They should ”build“ towards the thesis statement.

**3. Thesis statement**

The thesis statement comes at the end of the introduction. It is the most important sentence in the entire essay because it presents the essay topic and the writer’s position on that topic. It also indicates the main ideas that will be discussed in the body paragraphs.