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

# Graphic Organizer for 5 Paragraph Essay

Paragraph 1: Introduction of issue/problem

What is the issue/problem? Analysis of the issue/problem Why I chose this issue/problem\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Paragraph 2: Plan of action

What am I planning to do to get involved in this issue/problem?


## Paragraph 3: Summary of what I did

First I called. . . Then I visited . . . Finally I . . .

#### Paragraph 4: Reflection

How did I grow as a person through this experience? What are my feelings about this issue/problem? What are my feelings about what I did to help?

#### Paragraph 5: Conclusion

Restate the problem (refer to your introduction) Has my opinion changed since I began this project? Has my awareness of this issue/problem changed? What is my next step? Will I stay involved?

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## Important things to remember about writing great paragraphs!

- $\checkmark$  A paragraph is a series of sentences that are about one topic.
- ✓ A paragraph is made up of three parts: a topic sentence, supporting ideas, and a clincher.

Topic Sentences

- $\checkmark$  A topic sentence expresses the main idea of the paragraph.
- The topic sentence answers one or more questions like why, how, or where?
- $\checkmark$  You must be able to support your topic sentence.

Supporting Ideas

- ✓ Details give writing flavor.
- ✓ Unrelated ideas do not explain or support the topic sentence.
- $\checkmark$  A transition is a link or a connection between sentences.
  - Example: first, next, meanwhile, in conclusion
- ✓ Vary the beginnings of sentences.

<u>Clinchers</u>

- ✓ A clincher summarizes the main ideas or feelings in a paragraph and lets the reader know when the paragraph is done.
- ✓ Clinchers don't just restate the topic sentence; restating the topic sentence as the clincher is too easy and usually dull.
- ✓ The clincher can be the same idea as the topic sentence, a question, an amusing thought, or an unexpected twist.
- ✓ The clincher cannot be another support sentence.
- ✓ A paragraph must come full circle from the topic sentence to the clincher.