

An **essay** should have

- An **introduction**: brief beginning that introduces the topic
- A **body**: longer middle that discusses and develops the topic
- A **conclusion**: a brief ending that completes the discussion of the topic

Introduction

An **introduction** should

- Tell the reader what you are going to say
- Interest him in reading further

An introduction is made up of **motivator**, **line** and **thesis statement**.

1. A **motivator**: something that grabs the reader's interest
2. A **line**: connects the motivator to the thesis statement and consists of generalizations that relate to the topic and the thesis
3. A **thesis statement**: tells the reader the central idea you are going to develop within your essay (see Thesis Statement link for more information)

Body

- Each paragraph of the body should contain a topic sentence that relates to the thesis statement.
- Specific details and information within the body should be used to support the topic sentence.
- There are six types of paragraph development. These are:
 - Explaining a process
 - Supplying reasons (see sample essay)
 - Providing examples
 - Relating an event
 - Describing a scene
 - Comparing and contrasting

Conclusion

Conclusions should contain

- A transition word that signals the end
- A restatement of the thesis
- A summary of implications
- A clincher

Transitional words (for more examples see [Transitional Words and Phrases](#) link):

- However
- Therefore
- For example
- First
- Next

Essay Outline

Topic
(Title)



Introduction/Thesis Statement
(The main idea)

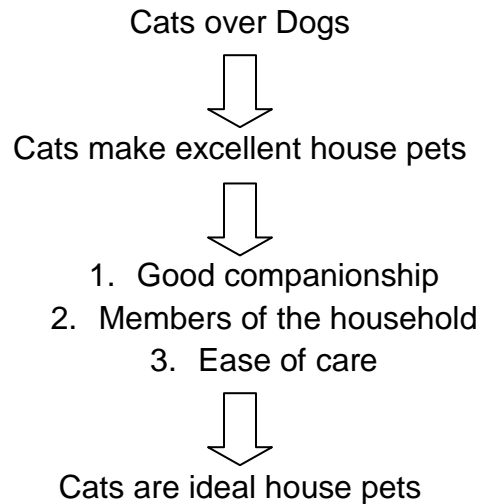


Body
(Supporting points)



Conclusion
(Summary)

Example



Sample Essay

Cats over Dogs

"A dog is a man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. **Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent house pets. They are great companions, they can be a part of the family, and they are very easy to care for.**

Introduction

Thesis mentioning 3 main points for discussion

Topic Sentence

In the first place, people enjoy the companionship of cats. Many cats are affectionate. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted, or scratched under the chin. Who can resist a purring cat? If they're not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers, or just about anything dangling from a string. They especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Contrary to popular opinion, cats can be trained. Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, a cat can be trained to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks. Cats will even fetch!

Supplying Reasons

Topic Sentence

In the second place, cats are civilized members of the household. Unlike dogs, cats do not bark or make other loud noises. Most cats don't even meow very often. They generally lead a quiet existence. Cats also don't often have "accidents." Mother cats train their kittens to use the litter box, and most cats will use it without fail from that time on. Even stray cats usually understand the concept when shown the box and will use it regularly. Cats do have claws, and owners must make provision for this. A tall scratching post in a favorite cat area of the house will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone. As a last resort, of course, cats can be declawed.

Supplying Reasons

Topic Sentence

Lastly, one of the most attractive features of cats as house pets is their ease of care. Cats do not have to be walked. They get plenty of exercise in the house as they play, and they do their business in the litter box. Cleaning a litter box is a quick, painless procedure. Cats also take care of their own grooming. Bathing a cat is almost never necessary because under ordinary circumstances cats clean themselves. Cats are more particular about personal cleanliness than people are. In addition, cats can be left home alone for a few hours without fear. Unlike some pets, most cats will not destroy the furnishings when left alone. They are content to go about their usual activities until their owners return.

Supplying Reasons

Conclusion

Cats are low maintenance, civilized companions who are great family members. In many ways, cats are the ideal house pet. People who have small living quarters or less time for pet care should appreciate these characteristics of cats. However, many people who have plenty of space and time still opt to have a cat because they love the cat personality.

Restatement of Thesis