

Notes over Writing a Five-Paragraph Essay

Question: Should people spay dogs?

Thesis: People should spay dogs.

3 Main Points:

1. Spaying animals helps control the pet population.
2. Animals that are spayed live longer.
3. Dogs that are spayed are less likely to roam the neighborhood.

Summary of 3 Main Points:

Spaying animals controls the population, gives them longer life spans, and keeps them home.

Introduction Paragraph:

Introduction Strategy (3-4 sentences)

lively description, surprising statement,
quotation, question, strong opinion, or anecdote

Summarize 3 Main Points (1 sentence)

Thesis (1 sentence)

Example with a surprising statement:

According to the ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), 1.2 million unwanted dogs are euthanized each year. People who want animals are often not able to care for more than just a couple at a time. It is sad to think that there are so many dogs that are not adopted. However, there is a solution to this problem. Spaying animals controls the population, gives them longer life spans, and keeps them home. **People should spay dogs.**

Example with lively description:

The barking, whining, and yelping is deafening inside the concrete-walled building of the Parke-Vermillion Humane Society. Tails are wagging vigorously and cold noses are pressed through the fenced barriers. Each dog seems to be doing his best to communicate, "Pick me!" Unfortunately, there are too many canines and not enough available families willing to adopt. Spaying animals controls the population, gives them longer life spans, and keeps them home. **People should spay dogs.**

Example with a question:

After deciding on which breed of dog to get, the next most important question to ask is "Should the dog be spayed?" Often pet owners are reluctant to have a dog undergo this surgery because it costs money or because having more cute puppies sounds exciting. Some people even worry about the health effects of spaying dogs. What if my dog does not make it through surgery? However, spaying animals controls the population, gives them longer life spans, and keeps them home. **People should spay dogs.**

Main Points

Topic Sentence: Spaying animals helps control the pet population.

Concrete Details: facts, statistics, quotes, anecdotes (story)

Transition: close the paragraph

Example Main Point 1 (fact)

Spaying animals helps control the pet population. According to the Animal Rights activists, in just six years, one female dog and her offspring can be the source of 67,000 puppies! Taking care of one dog is time consuming. It is also expensive to feed them and pay for vet visits. As a result, cute little puppies often grow up to be unwanted, abandoned strays. **It is important to reduce the number of animals.**

Example Main Point 2 (quote)

Animals that are spayed live longer. Dr. Kate Creevy at Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine states that “Sterilized (spayed) dogs live longer.” Dogs risk having health complications each time they have a litter of puppies. It takes dedicated and knowledgeable pet owners to care for the mother and puppies properly. Often times, vets have to perform caesarian sections if the mother is having trouble birthing the puppies. **It is much easier and healthier for the dog to be spayed.**

Example Main Point 3 (anecdote)

Dogs that are spayed are less likely to roam the neighborhood. In my neighborhood there are many stray dogs that roam around my house. We are fearful that one may try to bite our dog Bella. The other day my husband went outside with a gun and started shooting in the air. He said that was their warning. I don't want them shot. **If only they had been spayed, perhaps they would not roam.**