

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered on the page.

WRITING BOOT CAMP

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO SUCCEED IN ESSAY WRITING

WHAT IS A FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE?

[Click here for a good example.](#)

Exercise 1 (write your answers on the **Writing Boot Camp Exercise Sheet**)

1. What about this essay makes it easy to read?
2. What elements of your writing skills do you feel you need to work on after going over this example? *(There is no right answer here, self-evaluation is always to first step to self-improvement.)*

WHAT IS THE WRITING PROCESS?



STEP 1, BRAINSTORMING MAP...

1. Every five paragraph essay I assign will include this map.
2. It will be on a separate Google doc along with the next step (five paragraph graphic organizer).
3. From your claim, written in the top box, brainstorm at least three points to support it and write those in the bottom three boxes.

Note: *Make sure your points and claim are short, you will combine them all to make your thesis.*

Claim:		
1. Point	2. Point	3. Point

THE SPECIFICS OF MAKING A CLAIM...

1. Read over the Writing Prompt

Based on the writing prompt, make a claim to develop an argument around.
Be sure to think about what points you will use to support this claim.



2. Make Your Claim

Pick a side, develop a theory, or conduct some type of literary or rhetorical analysis.

NOW HOW DO WE COME UP WITH SUPPORTING POINTS?

Your Points Need to Support Your Claim

Make sure you have more than one point.

Does your point actually support your claim?



Keep it Short

You can build an argument around your points in later drafts, for now just write a short statement (3-4 words).

LET'S REVISIT THE BRAINSTORMING MAP...

1. At this point you should have a claim.
2. Following the criteria in the previous slide, come up with three points to support your claim.
3. Make sure you are not stating the same point three times. Come up with points that support your claim in different ways.

Claim:

1. Point

2. Point

3. Point

EXERCISE 2

1. Open the **Writing Boot Camp Exercise Sheet** and go to exercise 2.
2. See me to decide on an essay topic. Think of a movie you know really well, a political topic you are interested in, a book, a public figure, etc. What is something you know about?
3. Once you receive your topic, complete step 1, the brainstorming map. Follow the guidelines presented above carefully and look at the example provided for reference.

STEP 2: THE FIVE PARAGRAPH GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

- Don't panic, this looks complicated but it is not.
- It is color coded to help you figure out where this information goes when you start your rough draft.
- Red part: introduction
- Blue part: body paragraphs 1,2 and 3
- Purple: conclusion

Introduction		
Hook:	Thesis:	
Body Paragraphs		
1.	2.	3.
Conclusion		
Acknowledge	Respond	

HOW DO WE FILL OUT THE FIVE PARAGRAPH GRAPHIC ORGANIZER?

Introduction

Cut and paste everything from your brainstorming map into the box marked "thesis."

Now, develop a hook. For some good advice on writing a hook [click here](#).



Body Paragraphs

Now, cut and paste your points at the top of each box.

In each box, write 2-3 bullet points that support your point.



Conclusion

Acknowledge: Restate your thesis

Response: Now you have to sell it. What was your main point? What did you want people to learn from reading your essay?

EXERCISE 3

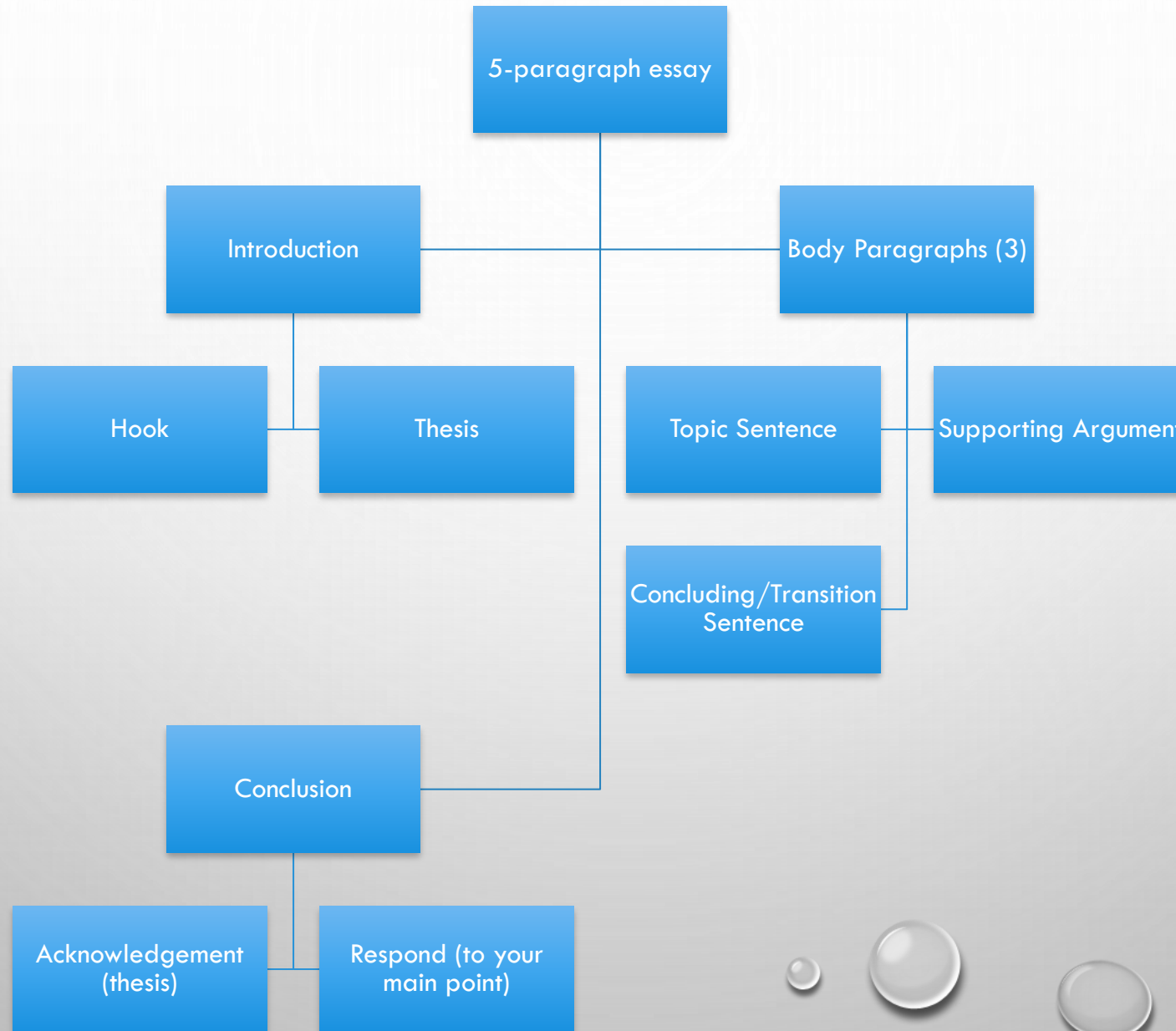
Now it is your turn.

1. Go to the **Writing Boot Camp Exercise Sheet** and complete exercise two, the five paragraph graphic organizer.
2. If you have any questions, refer back to this presentation and look over the example provided.

STEP 3: NOW IT'S TIME TO START YOUR DRAFT

- By now, you should have your five-paragraph essay clearly mapped out.
- To get an idea of what you have to add in to make your draft complete, check out the next few slides.

ASSEMBLING YOUR ROUGH DRAFT, A QUICK SNAPSHOT...



YOUR ROUGH DRAFT...

Paragraph 1 (Introduction)

You should already have a decent hook. Now write a sentence or two introducing your subject...

Then, write your thesis statement in a complete sentence. Remember, your thesis needs to set up the entire paper, and all of the body paragraphs should support your thesis statement.



Body Paragraphs

Each body paragraph needs a proper topic sentence introducing the point and supporting that point with evidence.

Then develop an argument supporting the point. Be sure to end your paragraph with a concluding or transition sentence. Click [here](#) some helpful transition words.



Conclusion

Combine your acknowledgement and response into one paragraph.

Sell it! What do you want your audience to learn from this essay?

EXERCISE 4

1. Go back to the attached document and combine all the parts from your 5-paragraph graphic organizer into your rough draft.
2. Be sure to indent each paragraph.
3. Use this PowerPoint as a guide to structuring and composing your first draft. Remember, you will need to do more than just cut and paste from your graphic organizer. You will need to thoroughly write out your ideas in complete sentences.

STEP 4: REVISIONS

- Even if you are an amazing writer, you still need to revise your paper *at least* once. Authors, journalists, and other professional writers revise their work constantly. If you have not looked over your work at least once, please do not turn it in.
- I am happy to help you revise your paper, but you must first look through on your own. If you tell me you've gone through it and did not find any mistakes, I will send you back and tell you to think more critically about your rough draft.

REVISION MADE SIMPLE...

Formatting

Is your essay one long paragraph or five distinct ones?

Have you indented the first line of each paragraph and skipped a line between each paragraph?



Content

Read your essay out loud to yourself. Do your ideas make sense? Do your body paragraphs support your thesis? Is the main idea of each paragraph supported with a strong argument? Feel free to tweak or change the content of your work to ensure your arguments strongly support your thesis.



Mechanics, Grammar, and Punctuation

Do your subjects and verbs agree? Do you and have any run on sentences? Did you use correct punctuation? Read your paper aloud to yourself one more time to make sure.

EXERCISE 5: FINAL DRAFT

1. Almost there! After you have read through and revised your paper, have someone else read through your draft to provide feedback.
2. Based on the feedback they provide, read through your paper one more time and make any more necessary revisions.
3. Turn your paper in!