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true opinions [...] have only
to be awakened
by questioning
to become knowledge
- *Socrates*



MF9340

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∞ The Five Paragraph Method ∞

~ a tool for Academic Writing and Speaking ~

- ▶ **raise questions**
- ▶ **draft answers**
- ▶ **review & improve**

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to serve enlightenment



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Why do we need argumentation and discussion?

- 1. To avoid bloodshed** [democracy]
exercising our conflicts with words
- 2. To develop consensus** [e. g. parliamentarism]
(common ground in *questions of contention*)
- 3. To educate citizens** [school]
able to present their own case
- 4. To remove doubt** [academia]
(safer ground in *questions of doubt*)
- 5. To illuminate the issue** [civic discourse]
- for the common good



*And then a basic democratic competence emerge:
to accept both counterarguments and defeat with
dignity*

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Get on writing

~ a dialectical method ~

Freewriting and idea forming – in 7 steps:

1. Freewriting
2. Topic sentence (the main aim)
3. The Question
4. Alternative questions
5. Review and evaluate
6. Choose
7. Explain



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Each step in this exercise set is an independent *turn*; a minor writing strategy – so the entire set is a kind of collapsible pocket tool.

... and then ...



just do it: articulating a main question / problem statement is done in 7 minutes

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The five paragraph sketch

~ write the first draft ~

In half an hour or so you will produce 1-2 typed pages – even on a rainy day. And that’s a start:

- ✓ Write five sentences;
 - 1 *first*: one to state the issue.
 - 2,3,4 *then*: make three more, with points to develop the first; each point one sentence.
 - 5 *and finally*: close it all off with a sentence, to get a responsible grip at the end.
- ✓ And then you expand these sentences into paragraphs, by explaining each sentence.

= a five paragraph sketch, with
a beginning – a middle – and an end

<i>Presentation</i> (Ethos)	<i>Body</i> (Logos)	<i>Conclusion</i> (Pathos)
Prove you are considerate!	Prove you are sensible!	Prove you are responsible!



IMRaD



~ *the Scientific Article* ~

This is currently the most influential format for reporting articles in scientific journals. Here it is operationalized by *questions* and brief *freewriting*:

When done with a project, you'll easily answer me:

✓ **Introduction**

1. *What did you do?*

✓ **Materials and Methods**

2. *What did you use, and how?*

✓ **Results**

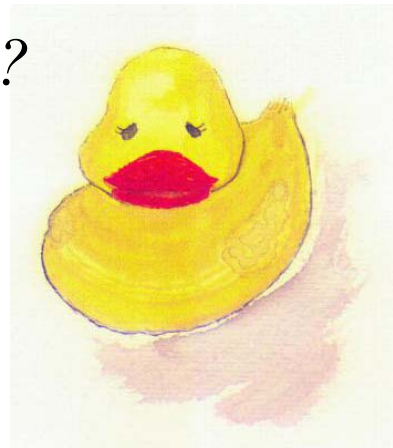
3. *What happened?*

... *and* ...

✓ **Discussion**

4. *What does the result mean?*

5. *What have others said?*





Response responsibilities

first + aid: tutorial peer review

Two *rules of thumb*, when giving constructive comments (e.g. to develop a first draft):

1. Learn to *notice what is achieved*
2. Learn to *make good guiding questions*

✓ NB!

When giving response:

- ✓ avoid giving *too much* response
- ✓ avoid *empty praise, bragging* and *pedantry*

When receiving response:

- ✓ *do not reply*, but
- ✓ *take notes*

✓ NB!! Cooperation should be established early





... a bit about peer review ...

from *sense about science*

A SHORT EXPLANATION OF PEER REVIEW

When a researcher, or team of researchers, finishes a stage of work, they usually write a paper presenting their *methods, findings and conclusions*. They then send the paper to a scientific journal to be considered for publication.

If the journal's editor thinks it is suitable for their journal they send the paper to other scientists who research and publish in the same field asking them to:

- Comment on its *validity* – are the research results credible; are the design and methodology appropriate?
- Judge the *significance* - is it an important finding?
- Determine its *originality* - are the results new? Does the paper refer properly to work done by others?
- Give an opinion as to whether the paper should be *published, improved* or *rejected* (usually to be submitted elsewhere).

This process is called *peer review*. The scientists (*peers*) assessing the papers are called referees or reviewers.

[emphasis added]

(<http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/pdf/ShortPeerReviewGuide.pdf>)



Q.E.D.*



= the five paragraph method =

I knew what I could make you do, and now you know too:

1. You can:
 - a. write 5 minutes at full force, on any topic; no excuses - no regrets; you can *freewrite*
 - b. articulate a *topic sentence*
 - c. turn any phrase into a *Question*
2. You can: for any topic
 - a. *name the topic*
 - b. *make 1-2-3 points to develop the topic*
(1. first; 2. second; 3. last, but not least)
 - c. *Conclude or summarize*
3. You can: give and receive review



Let this serve as your base & point of departure.
Now you just need to *exercise*, so you get to know what you can achieve.

exercise still is the way to mastery