

# ESSAY



## MYTHS

1. Every essay must have five paragraphs.
2. Thesis statement needs to be finalized before writing an essay.
3. Thesis statement must be one sentence.
4. Only cite any direct quotes used in the essay.
5. Placing quotes in an essay paragraph will be sufficient support.
6. Using 'big' words will make an essay impressive.

1. **Essay length is determined by the amount of support required to present the main idea(s) in the thesis statement.**
  - The number of body paragraphs are determined by supporting evidence needed.
  - Confirm any length requirements with the course instructor.
2. **Thesis statement(s) can evolve during the essay writing process.**
  - New ideas and supporting evidence can be discovered later, so the initial thesis statement will need to be modified.
3. **Thesis statement can be presented in more than one sentence.**
  - The goal is to provide direction for the controlling ideas to be presented in the essay.
  - More than one sentence may be needed to maintain flow as well as comprehension.
4. **Citing is required for both direct quotes and paraphrased ideas.**
  - Appropriate documentation is required to avoid plagiarism and to provide credibility.
5. **Each quote requires an introductory phrase (signal phrase) and an explanation that connects it to your supporting point(s)**
  - Explanations demonstrate a writer's comprehension.
6. **Select words that will present the idea(s) clearly.**
  - Be sure the word choice allows an audience to comprehend the idea(s).