Here is the way I suggest you organize your class essays (longer essays may need more than 5 paragraphs). Also, please keep in mind that there are some things that you must include in your papers:

- An introduction paragraph that defines your topic. There should be no information in the introduction that is not reiterated somewhere else in the paper. It should end with your thesis statement.

- A thesis statement that presents the main points that you will deal with in the body of your essay

- A conclusion paragraph that sums up your main points and paraphrases your thesis statement. There should be no new information in your conclusion.

- MLA formatting: heading in the upper left hand corner; a title; indented paragraphs; Times New Roman, 12 pt font; double spaced; 1 inch margins

- Some specific details/examples

- Citation (MLA style)
5 Paragraph Essay Style

Introduction Paragraph/Defining

- Defining the Topic
- Thesis Statement/Main Points of the Paper
  - Main Point #1
  - Main Point #2
  - Main Point #3

Body Paragraph #1/Main Point #1

- Topic Sentence/Points back to Thesis Statement
- At least 2 sentences that elaborate on Topic Sentence
- Transition to next paragraph

Body Paragraph #2/Main Point #2

- Topic Sentence/Points back to Thesis Statement
- At least 2 sentences that elaborate on Topic Sentence
- Transition to next paragraph

Body Paragraph #3/Main Point #3

- Topic Sentence/Points back to Thesis Statement
- At least 2 sentences that elaborate on Topic Sentence
- Transition to next paragraph

Conclusion Paragraph/Summing Up

- Re-stated Thesis
- Main Point #1
- Main Point #2
- Main Point #3