

1 – 3 – 1 Essay Guidelines

A 1-3-1 essay is a five paragraph essay.

- The first paragraph is an introduction. It contains a sentence or two to get the readers' attention and ends with a thesis statement. The thesis statement contains the main idea of the essay. The rest of the essay supports the thesis statement.

Example: Jacques Cousteau is to be admired because of his inventiveness, his contributions to marine science, and his dedication to this field.

- The next three paragraphs are the body paragraphs. Each body paragraph discusses one of the points raised in the thesis. In this example, the first body paragraph would discuss his inventiveness, the next body paragraph would discuss his contributions to marine science, and the third body paragraph would discuss his dedication to this field.

Each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence:

Body paragraph 1: Of these admirable characteristics, Cousteau's inventiveness has assisted him most in his desire to explore the new world of inner space.

Body paragraph 2: Cousteau is to be admired not only for his inventiveness, but also for his many contributions to marine science.

Body paragraph 3: Cousteau's inventiveness and his contributions to marine science are matched by his dedication to the field.

The rest of each body paragraph provides details and examples to support the topic sentence.

- The fifth paragraph of the essay is the final paragraph and concludes the essay. In this paragraph, the thesis in your introductory paragraph is restated (not repeated).

The introduction and conclusion of a 1-3-1 essay are generally less detailed than the rest of the essay. The three body paragraphs need many details and examples to support the topic sentences.

An example of a 1-3-1 essay is attached as well as a 1-3-1 template.

Template for a 1-3-1 Essay:

- I. Introductory paragraph
 - A. Attention getter:

 - B. Thesis statement: (may contain preview)

- II. First body paragraph, topic/transitional sentence:
 - A. Point 1:
 1. Proof:

 2. Proof:

 - B. Point 2:
 1. Proof:

 2. Proof:

- III. Secondary body paragraph, topic/transitional sentence:
 - A. Point 1:
 1. Proof:

 2. Proof:

B. Point 2:

1. Proof:

2. Proof

IV. Third body paragraph, topic/transitional sentence:

A. Point 1:

1. Proof:

2. Proof:

B. Point 2:

1. Proof:

2. Proof:

V. Conclusion:

A. Restate thesis:

B. Closing statement:

Proof must be in the form of specific examples, quotes, experts, magazine articles, statistics, etc.

JACQUES COUSTEAU

Lead-in
Statement

Many Americans might never have known of the French scientist Jacques Cousteau if it had not been for his documentary series The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau. At first, television viewers were interested only in the subject matter of the film which introduced them to the undersea world Cousteau refers to as “inner space.” But as they continued watching these documentaries, many viewers became interested not only in the subject matter, but also in the background of this unusual man. **Jacques Cousteau is to be admired because of his inventiveness, his contributions to marine science, and his dedication to his field.**

Thesis

Transition/
Topic
Sentence

Of these admirable characteristics, Cousteau’s inventiveness has assisted him most in his desire to explore the new world of inner space. First, the aqua-lung that he invented has proved to be a valuable piece of marine equipment for exploration of the undersea world because it enables underwater explorers to breathe without the assistance of air hoses from the surface. The aqua-lung, carried on the back of the diver, allows more freedom of movement than did the underwater devices of the past. With this aqua-lung and a watertight camera, Cousteau has been able to explore ocean depths that had not previously been explored. He has also invented other types of marine equipment, such as the mini-sub and personal diving equipment. In addition, he was the first to use underwater television to maintain contact between divers in the water and scientists aboard the ship and to use the bathyscaph, which enabled him to make observations two miles below the surface of the sea. *Cousteau’s inventiveness has really made inner space a new frontier.*

Proof/
Details

Summary
Sentence

Transition/
Topic
Sentence

Cousteau is to be admired not only for his inventiveness, but also for his many contributions to marine science. Two of his books, The Silent World, written in 1953, and The Living Sea, written in 1963, describe his experiences exploring the ocean depths and make millions aware of the importance of marine science in our modern world. He also made a film documentary on the Galapagos Islands and made one of its inhabitants, the marine iguana, important to marine science because of its ability to slow down and even to stop its own heartbeat. Another film documentary explains some of the sperm whale’s behavioral characteristics, such as its grouping and mating habits. The purpose of this documentary was to help prevent this mammal from becoming extinct. Other fascinating film documentaries produced by Cousteau which help to explain the undersea world are

Proof/
Details

Summary Sentence	those on the sea otter, the bottle-nosed dolphin, the octopus, and the ecology of reefs around the world. <i>The diversity of his many contributions to marine science is an indication of why Cousteau is a leader in the field.</i>
Transition/ Topic Sentence	<u>Cousteau's inventiveness and his contributions to marine science are matched by his dedication to the field.</u> For example, when all research money was diverted to armed defense during World War II, Cousteau continued his research using his own financial resources. Following World War II, Cousteau, with the help of a financial backer, purchased a ship, the <u>Calypso</u> , to further his research. On some of these voyages, the men have salvaged cargo from sunken ships. Instead of merely selling the cargo, however, Cousteau carefully catalogs the various pieces of sunken treasure and notes the sea's effect on them. This operation in itself adds to historical knowledge. <i>His unselfish devotion to his field is an admirable quality.</i>
Proof/ Details	
Summary Sentence	At a time in life when most men are retired, Jacques Cousteau, who is in his seventies, is still with his men, diving and researching. This scientist, physically and mentally active and still contributing to the marine world, is truly a man who deserves admiration.
Concluding Statement Refers to Intro	

Note to students: This essay is a sample to illustrate format. Course instructors have copies. Duplication or near duplication would be regarded as plagiarism.