



Introduction

The **first paragraph** should explain which insect you studied and ***why you are interested in studying it***. Tell how learning the information you studied can benefit you or others. Try to get your reader interested in reading the essay and the research report. Some interesting approaches for the first paragraph:

- tell a story that explains how you got interested.
- make a comparison.
- explain a scientific principle, term or process that the problem illustrates or makes clearer.

Insect Essay

In the first part of the essay, you share what you learned about your insect's role in the living community. You'll describe the kinds of habitats where your insect population is found. You'll share an account of what your insect population eats and who preys upon it. You will explain how the insects adapt to their environment through specialized structures and behaviors. You will outline the insect's life cycle. Finally, you'll explain how you intend to raise your population inside (or outside) your home or at the school.

Body

The second, third, fourth and fifth paragraphs will explain any background information that is helpful or necessary in order to best understand your topic. Write one paragraph on each of the following topics:

- Anatomy and specialized adaptations of your insect of your insect
- Life cycle of your insect. Be sure to describe how to recognize each stage. This is usually really important to help you gather and helps your reader interpret the data in your investigation.
- Native habitat of your insect
- Living requirements—a description of how to raise the insect

Conclusion

You have written part I of the essay. When you complete the research for and incorporate part II into the essay, you will add a conclusion.

Bibliography

It is very important to list every source that you used in the first part of the essay and to give credit using an acceptable reference form.

How to Write a Bibliography (Reference List)

Use the following format when writing a list of references:

- Each work is identified by three elements: author's name, title or source, and publication information.
- The title of the work should be italicized.
- The first line starts at the left margin. The second line is indented five spaces.
- Each source is listed alphabetically by the author's last name.

Examples:

Books

Marks, Paula. *The Human Genome Project*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995.

Magazines or Newspapers

Moffet, Mark. "Poison-Dart Frogs: Lurid and Lethal." *National Geographic* May 1995: 98-101.

Web Site Articles

Wenner, Elizabeth. *Dynamics of the Salt Marsh*. Department of Natural Resources. Retrieved from the World Wide Web on 21 December 2003. <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/pub/seascience/dynamic.html>