

Example 5 Paragraph Essay:

People are mistaken who believe the high Rockies are hard to climb. To the traveler who has passed through the plains of Kansas and eastern Colorado, the high Rockies might seem like a beautiful but forbidding wilderness, approachable by only the toughest mountaineers. It is true that the 53 peaks in the Rockies that soar over 14,000 feet in elevation should only be attempted by seasoned climbers. However, the peaks under 14,000 feet, the fourteeners, can be easily climbed by the average person. Actually, climbing Colorado's fourteeners is hardly a rugged experience because most of them take only a day to climb, involve no more than hiking and simple scrambling, and are conquered by many people each year.

Surprisingly, unlike expeditions to Mt. McKinley or Mt. Everest, a climb up one of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks rarely takes more than a day. Pike's Peak, with the state's greatest base-to-summit elevation gain, is admittedly a strenuous climb, yet a retired college professor in his middle seventies makes the hike every day in the summer. A friend of mine, Carson Black, in a day, once climbed four fourteeners, three of which--Crestone Peak, Crestone Needle, and Kit Carson Peak--are the most challenging in the state. Even more revealing is the Bicentennial celebration by the Colorado Mountain Club. It planned to have members on the summit of every fourteener in the state on July 4, 1976. Only a handful of ascents took more than a day.

Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks are also fairly easy to climb because they require no special climbing techniques. The "knife-edge traverse" on Capitol Peak is probably the most infamous challenge, yet most hikers who carry ropes don't use them when they see the ridge is not very intimidating. The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is so simple to climb that a jeep made it in 1949, and one man "rode a 24-year-old bicycle to the summit in 1951" (Perry Eberhart and Philip Schmuck, *The Fourteeners*, p. 38). I personally saw two motorcycles on the 14,000-foot ridge between Mt. Democrat and Mt. Lincoln.

Another indication that climbing Colorado's highest peaks is not very difficult is the sheer number of people who succeed each summer. After descending from Torrey's Peak one weekend in August, I counted over seventy cars in the parking lot. On a week the previous August, I passed fifty people in various stages of climbing Mt. Elbert. Even years ago--in 1968--4226 people climbed Longs Peak (Paul W. Nesbit, *Longs Peak*, p. 68). Its parking lot today, to accommodate the number of climbers, is about a quarter-mile long.

If I've shattered your belief that Colorado's peaks are the domain of only bears and mountain men who look like bears, consider how Zebulon Pike might feel about Pikes Peak today. In 1806, he "predicted that the mountain would never be climbed" (Eberhart and Schmuck, p. 6). Now, via the cog railway or the toll highway, he could reach the summit without moving his legs.

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Structure of an Introductory Paragraph

■ Motivator:	People are mistaken who believe the high Rockies are hard to climb.
■ Thesis:	Climbing Colorado's fourteeners is hardly a rugged experience...
■ Blueprint:	...most of them take only a day to climb, involve only hiking and simple scrambling, and are conquered by many people every year.

Introductory

Paragraph

People are mistaken who believe the high Rockies are hard to climb. To the traveler who has passed through the plains of Kansas and eastern Colorado, the high Rockies might seem like a beautiful but forbidding wilderness, approachable by only the toughest mountaineers. It is true that the 53 peaks in the Rockies that soar over 14,000 feet in elevation should only be attempted by seasoned climbers. However, the peaks under 14,000 feet, the fourteeners, can be easily climbed by the average person. Actually, climbing Colorado's fourteeners is hardly a rugged experience because most of them take only a day to climb, involve no more than hiking and simple scrambling, and are conquered by many people each year.

First Body Paragraph

■ Topic Sentence	A climb up one of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks rarely takes more than a day.
■ Specific Support	Old professor makes daily climbs.
■ Specific Support	A friend climbed four in one day.
■ Specific Support	Colorado Mountain Club climbed most of the state's fourteeners in a day to celebrate the Bicentennial.

Surprisingly, unlike expeditions to Mt. McKinley or Mt. Everest, a climb up one of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks rarely takes more than a day. Pike's Peak, with the state's greatest base-to-summit elevation gain, is admittedly a strenuous climb, yet a retired college professor in his middle seventies makes the hike every day in the summer. A friend of mine, Carson Black, in a day, once climbed four fourteeners, three of which--Crestone Peak, Crestone Needle, and Kit Carson Peak--are the most challenging in the state.

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Even more revealing is the Bicentennial celebration by the Colorado Mountain Club. It planned to have members on the summit of every fourteener in the state on July 4, 1976. Only a handful of ascents took more than a day.

Second Body Paragraph

■ Topic Sentence	Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks are easy to climb.
■ Specific Support	The "knife-edge traverse" on Capitol Peak is a challenge, yet ropes aren't usually used.
■ Specific Support	The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is simple to climb..
■ Specific Support	I personally saw two motorcycles on the 14,000-foot ridge.

Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks are also fairly easy to climb because they require no special climbing techniques. The "knife-edge traverse" on Capitol Peak is probably the most infamous challenge, yet most hikers who carry ropes don't use them when they see the ridge is not very intimidating. The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is so simple to climb that a jeep made it in 1949, and one man "rode a 24-year-old bicycle to the summit in 1951" (Perry Eberhart and Philip Schmuck, *The Fourteeners*, p. 38). I personally saw two motorcycles on the 14,000-foot ridge between Mt. Democrat and Mt. Lincoln.

Third Body Paragraph

■ Topic Sentence	Many climb peaks each year.
■ Specific Support	I saw over seventy cars in the parking lot of Torrey's Peak
■ Specific Support	I passed fifty people climbing Mt. Elbert.
■ Specific Support	In 1968, 4226 people climbed Longs Peak.

Another indication that climbing Colorado's highest peaks is not very difficult is the sheer number of people who succeed each summer. After descending from Torrey's Peak one weekend in August, I counted over seventy cars in the parking lot. On a week the previous August, I passed fifty people in various stages of climbing Mt. Elbert. Even years ago--in 1968--4226 people climbed Longs Peak (Paul W. Nesbit, *Longs Peak*, p. 68). Its parking lot today, to accommodate the number of climbers, is about a quarter-mile long.

Concluding Paragraph

■ Reworded Thesis	I've probably shattered your belief that Colorado's peaks are the domain of only bears and mountain men who look like bears
■ Clincher	Zebulon Pike would be surprised today.

If I've shattered your belief that Colorado's peaks are the domain of only bears and mountain men who look like bears, consider how Zebulon Pike might feel about Pikes Peak today. In 1806, he "predicted that the mountain would never be climbed" (Eberhart and Schmuck, p. 6). Now, via the cog railway or the toll highway, he could reach the summit without moving his legs.

Example Outline:

I. Introduction:

- a. Attention grabber/motivator: People and large mountains
- b. **Thesis:** Actually, climbing Colorado's fourteeners is hardly a rugged experience...
- c. Blueprint:
 - i. because most of them take only a day to climb
 - ii. involve no more than hiking and simple scrambling
 - iii. are conquered by many people each year

II. Body Paragraph one

- a. Topic Sentence: A climb up one of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks rarely takes more than a day.
- b. Supports:
 - i. Old professor makes daily climbs.
 - ii. A friend climbed four in one day.
 - iii. Colorado Mountain Club climbed most of the state's fourteeners in a day to celebrate the Bicentennial.

III. Body Paragraph two

- a. Topic Sentence: Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks are easy to climb.
- b. Supports:
 - i. The "knife-edge traverse" on Capitol Peak is a challenge, yet ropes aren't usually used.
 - ii. The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is so simple to climb that a jeep made it in 1949, and one man "rode a 24-year-old bicycle to the summit in 1951"
 - iii. I personally saw two motorcycles on the 14,000-foot ridge.

IV. Body Paragraph three

- a. Topic Sentence: Many climb peaks each year.
- b. Supports:
 - i. I saw over seventy cars in the parking lot of Torrey's Peak
 - ii. I passed fifty people climbing Mt. Elbert.
 - iii. In 1968, 4226 people climbed Longs Peak.

V. Conclusion

- a. Reworded Thesis: I've probably shattered your belief that Colorado's peaks are the domain of only bears and mountain men who look like bears
- b. Clincher: Zebulon Pike would be surprised today.

Example Work Cited Page:

Use bibme.org for formatting.

All sources must be MLA formatted, numbered and in alphabetical order

Examples:

Internet:

"NASA - Exploring the Universe." *NASA - Home*. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Apr. 2012.
<<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/universe/index.html>>.

Parenthetical Citation associated with the above site would be (NASA) if you had multiple NASA sites being used (NASA¹), (NASA²) and so on...

Example Parenthetical Citation:

Note that in each paragraph a quote or sentence is followed by (). Inside these parenthesis is information that leads a reader to your work cited page where they can identify where you got the information from. Each Paragraph should have a parenthetical citation.

Example:

...The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is so simple to climb that a jeep made it in 1949, and one man "rode a 24-year-old bicycle to the summit in 1951" (Perry Eberhart and Philip Schmuck, *The Fourteeners*, p. 38).

In this example the authors and page have been listed.

Other Example often used if this information came from an Internet Site:

...The highest peak in the state, Mt. Elbert, is so simple to climb that a jeep made it in 1949, and one man "rode a 24-year-old bicycle to the summit in 1951" (PERRY).

(PERRY) would indicate to the reader that the internet site associated with this information on the work cited page and Perry would be the first item listed associated with citation.

Information taken from...

English, Reading, Journalism and Creative Writing Department -
(<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/essay/>)

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RUBRIC:

This rubric can be used as a reminder to students as to what is expected on the paper. A teacher generated rubric will associate your paper when it is returned to you after grading. This is your copy and should not be lost.

Part	Description	Points
Introduction	✓ Motivator used ✓ Thesis identifiable ✓ Blueprint	_____/1 point
Body Paragraph 1	✓ Topic Sentence ✓ 3-5 supporting details	_____/1 point
Body Paragraph 2	✓ Topic Sentence ✓ 3-5 supporting details	
Body Paragraph 3	✓ Topic Sentence ✓ 3-5 supporting details	
Conclusion	✓ Reworded Thesis ✓ Clincher used	_____/1 point
Outline	✓ Outline format used (See example)	_____/1 point
Work Cited / Parenthetical Citation	✓ MLA style ✓ Each Paragraph with parenthetical citation	<i>Papers will not receive a grade unless two things are true 1) work cited page in MLA format, and 2) parenthetical citations are used in each paragraph.</i>

Any re-write will need the following included when paper is resubmitted:

1. Original Draft with teacher writing on it.
2. New draft with all missing parts according to received rubric underlined
3. Any missing parts such as work cited, or outline with a star in top right corner of paper