

Sample Paperclip Essays

(Partially generated by AI)

Don't feel like these are representative of the expectations of each age group. Many first and second graders can write a complete 5-paragraph essay like the second version, while advanced middle schoolers could write an essay like the last example. These are just supposed to be examples of what this essay submission could look like, for a wide range of writers.

Please note that for this contest, proper essay structure is just as important as content.

Hamburger Paragraph

Paperclips

The paperclip is a small tool that helps keep papers together. A long time ago, people used ribbons or pins, but these were hard and sometimes unsafe. The paperclip was first invented in the late 1800s in Germany. It is called the Gem paperclip because the company was named Gem manufacturing. Now there are lots of kinds and sizes and colors of paperclips, and you can buy them in lots of places. Even though it's little, the paperclip is a really smart invention that makes holding papers together much easier.

Simple 5-paragraph Essay Structure

The History of the Paperclip

(Intro) The paperclip is a small but very useful tool that helps people keep papers together. *(Thesis)* Even though it seems simple, the paperclip has an interesting history and has changed over time to become the handy tool we use today.

(Supporting Paragraph 1) A long time ago, people did not have paperclips. They used pins, ribbons, or twisted pieces of wire to hold papers together. These methods were not very safe or easy to use, and papers could easily get lost or messy. People wanted a better way to keep their papers organized.

(Supporting Paragraph 2) In the late 1800s, the modern paperclip was invented. The most popular design is called the Gem paperclip. It is made from one piece of bent wire and is very simple to use. People liked it because it held papers tightly and did not damage them.

(Supporting Paragraph 3) Today, paperclips are used in schools, offices, and homes all over the world. Some people even use them for crafts, small tools, or decorations. During history, paperclips have even been used as symbols of hope and unity. This little invention has many uses beyond just holding papers.

(Conclusion) The paperclip may be small, but it has a long history and has changed the way people organize papers. From early pins and ribbons to the modern Gem design, the paperclip is a simple invention that makes life easier every day.

More Advanced Essay

Note you are not limited to only 5-paragraphs, as long as you follow proper essay structure.

The Evolution and Significance of the Paperclip

At first, the paperclip might seem like just a simple office supply, but it actually has an interesting history. From early ways of holding papers together to the invention of the modern design we use today, the paperclip shows how even small tools can make life easier and have an impact on daily life.

Before paperclips were invented, people used pins, ribbons, and twisted wires to keep papers together. These methods often didn't work well and could even damage the papers. Schools, offices, and government workplaces needed a better way to organize important documents. These early attempts showed that people were always looking for better, easier solutions.

The modern paperclip, especially the Gem design, was created in the late 1800s and became popular quickly. Made from a single piece of bent wire, it held papers together without tearing them. Many inventors tried different designs, but the Gem paperclip worked the best because it was simple, strong, and easy to use. Its popularity grew as offices and schools needed better ways to stay organized.

Over time, paperclips have come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Some are coated in plastic for color-coding, and others are made for heavy-duty or special purposes. There are even decorative paperclips, showing that everyday objects can be both useful and creative.

Paperclips have also had surprising roles in history. During World War II, Norwegians wore paperclips as a secret symbol of resistance against the Nazis. This shows that even a small, ordinary object can carry meaning beyond its everyday use.

Today, paperclips are still used all over the world in offices, classrooms, and homes. They help organize papers, keep notes together, and even inspire art and DIY projects. Their continued usefulness shows that simple designs can last a long time.

Although small and ordinary, the paperclip proves that good ideas don't have to be complicated. From early methods of holding papers to the modern Gem design, from creative variations to its historical symbolism, the paperclip reminds us that simple tools can make a big difference in everyday life.