

This is a *6* paragraph essay: Intro, conclusion, and *4* body paragraphs. Yours only needs to be a *5-paragraph essay* (but it can be more)

Please make sure you have this heading

→ Your Name
Class 7.1
Personal Essay

Title: notice it's ****NOT**** HUGE!!!



Viajero: Why Traveling Is One of the Most Important Parts of My Life

Hook → Swimming in the emerald-green waters of Halong Bay in Vietnam. Watching the sun

set behind the ancient city of Florence. Teaching at a refugee camp in Kenya. These are just

some of the things I've been lucky enough to do through traveling. Nine years ago, I had

Necessary background → never been east of Utah; since then I've been to thirty-eight countries and six continents. At

least twice a year, I leave home to backpack through a new place. **I love traveling because I**

get to meet amazing new people, see breathtaking new places and learn about other

cultures and languages.

Thesis → Notice I restate my thesis there...you don't always need to do it, but it's helpful in the first topic sentence

← Reasons

1st topic sentence → **One reason I love to travel is that I get to meet amazing people.** For example, at

the border of Cambodia I met Joe, Bethan and Sinead and had a great time with them over the

next few days. They're still my good friends and I see them at least once a year in Britain. In

Florence, I also met Chad and Marianna at my campground. We hung around the city,

visiting the Renaissance buildings together and enjoying each other's company. In addition,

three summers ago, I met Emily and Tracy in Kenya, and we had so much fun together on

safari and volunteering at an orphanage. Finally, this past summer I met Alicia, Stephanie and

Stuart in Auckland, New Zealand. In fact, over half of my friends I met during my travels; in

almost every country of the world, I now have a friend on whose couch I can sleep!

You don't need to restate your thesis every time. You can, but it's not necessary.

2nd topic sentence → **Another reason I love to travel is that I get to see incredible new places.** For

example, when I went to El Calafate in Argentina in 2009, I was able to trek across a real

glacier. A week before, I was able to trek through the Peruvian rainforest, white water rafting

down the Dios de Madre River, and experience the creatures and sounds of the Amazon

Basin! In 2006, I lived in England for a month and was able to visit and touch the ancient

There's a mistake in this sentence...see if you can find it.

← I've underlined the transition words/phrases in this paragraph.

Neolithic stones of Stonehenge and the Roman ruins of Bath. I also lived in Africa in 2010, and was not only able to go on safari for a weekend in the Masai Mara, but I was able to see (and swim in) the Indian Ocean for the first time, trek through the Congo to see a family of endangered mountain gorillas, and sleep overnight on top of an active volcano, falling asleep to the red glow and rumbling of lava. Probably best of all, I've seen sunsets over the Duomo in Florence, the medieval cities of Edinburgh in Scotland and Marburg in Germany, and over the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Vietnam's Halong Bay. Knowing I have been able to see all these places makes me feel incredible lucky.

3rd topic
sentence

→ **A third reason I adore traveling is that I get to learn new languages.** For example,

every time I go to a new country I try to learn how to say at least “please,” “thank you,”

“hello” and “good-bye” in the native language: I've been to thirty-eight countries, and have

Parentheses every once in a while are okay...but if you use them in every paragraph, that could be a problem. (at least temporarily) learned those words in almost every country, be it in Thai, Cambodian,

Laotian, French, Danish, Hungarian, Polish, Turkish or Arabic. When I lived in Kenya that summer, I learned over thirty new words of Swahili, and was able to have small

conversations with my students. Every time I travel to Italy, much of my Italian also comes

back to me! Finally, now that I've lived in Spain for over a year, I'm able to have

conversations in Spanish about complicated topics like politics, philosophy and religion;

since most of friends are Spanish, this is very helpful!

↖ I decided I had a lot of evidence for "language" and "culture," so I put them into two separate paragraphs.

4th topic
sentence

→ **Finally, traveling allows me to experience new cultures.** In 2011, for example, I

traveled to Istanbul, Turkey and was immediately greeted by the beautiful songs of imams

calling people to prayer. I had never been in a Muslim country before, and learned a lot about

the religion and Turkish culture that I had never known. A week later, I also visited Cairo,

Egypt, which had just experienced its revolution. By speaking with taxi drivers, my hostel

owner and people on the streets, I learned so much about the people's emotions, hopes,

dreams, and fears. In addition, when I trekked through the Andes on my way to Machu

I've underlined the transition words/phrases in this paragraph.

Picchu, I met so many families and children who have spent their whole lives in the Andes, living in small huts made of mud. On the same trip, I was able to share dinner every night with a Spaniard, a Québécois, an Indian, a Peruvian and two Belgians, hearing about their stories and communities. I have had countless conversations with natives and fellow travelers alike in the past nine years!

Restate my thesis

In conclusion, **traveling is one of the most important parts of my life.** With traveling I

Restate
my
reasons

always get to see fantastic new cities and sights, encounter amazing new people, and interact with innumerable new languages and cultures. If people traveled to more countries and met people from other cultures, I'm convinced that there would probably be fewer wars. How could you ever declare war on a country when you've shared a meal with one of its citizens?

Catchy
ending