Five Paragraph Essay

I. Introduction = Paragraph 1
   A. Interesting Lead - Attention Grabber
      1. Quote
      2. Question
      3. Anecdote
      4. Unusual/Startling Fact
   B. Background information about the topic
   C. Thesis Statement
      1. Last sentence of the first paragraph
      2. Controls the paper - tells the reader what the paper is about.

II. Supporting Paragraphs = Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4
    Each paragraph has
    A. A topic sentence - contains a controlling idea related to the thesis
    B. An explanation or proof of the controlling idea of the topic sentence
       a. Facts
       b. Examples
       c. Physical description
       d. Personal experience
    C. Commentary (analysis or response) - Tells why the information is important

III. Conclusion = Paragraph 5
    A. Brief summary of supporting sentences
    B. Restate thesis in different words
    C. End Result
       1. Prediction
       2. Recommendation/call to action
       3. Solution
       4. General impression
       5. Judgement
    D. Clincher Statement
"A dog is man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but a dog is not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, cats are their best friends. Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent housepets.

In the first place, cats make wonderful companions. Many cats are affectionate. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted or scratched under the chin. Who can resist a purring cat? If they're not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers or just about anything dangling from a string. They especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Using rewards, just like a dog, a cat can be trained to do tricks. Cats will even fetch! Catowners can find a willing, playful friend in a cat. This is especially important to people who live alone or for single children who need to interact with living things.

Cats are also civilized members of the household. Unlike dogs, cats do not bark or make other loud noises. Most cats don't even meow very often. They generally lead a quiet existence. Cats also don't often have "accidents." Mother cats train their kittens to use the litter box, and most cats will use it without fail from that time on. Cats do have claws, and owners must make provision for this. A tall scratching post in a favorite cat area will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone. As a last resort, cats can be declawed. Therefore, for people who prefer quiet living and unobtrusive pets, cats are better than dogs.

Finally, one of the most attractive features of cats as housepets is their ease of care. Cats do not have to be walked. They get plenty of exercise in the house as they play, and they do their "business" in the litter box. Cleaning a litter box is a quick and painless procedure. Cats also take care of their own grooming. Bathing a cat is rarely necessary because they clean themselves. In addition, cats can be left home alone for several hours without fear. Unlike some dogs, most cats will not destroy the furnishings when left alone. They are content to go about their usual activities until their owners return. The ease of cat care allows busy people to spend more time enjoying their pet than caring for their pet.

Cats are low maintenance, civilized companions. People who have small living quarters or less time for pet care should appreciate these characteristics. However, many people who have plenty of time and space still opt to own a cat because of the cat personality. In many ways, cats are the ideal housepet.
Five-Paragraph Essay Checklist

___ I have five paragraphs in my essay

___ I have indented each paragraph

___ I did not use any contractions (don’t, wouldn’t, etc.)

___ I have at least five sentences in each paragraph

___ Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence

___ I capitalized all proper nouns and proper adjectives

___ I have no fragments or run-on sentences

___ Each supporting paragraph clearly supports my thesis

___ My thesis is the last sentence of the introductory paragraph

___ I used transitional words and phrases when appropriate

___ I proofread my essay carefully when I finished writing it

___ I wrote neatly and checked for correct spelling

___ I stayed focused on my topic and organized my ideas logically

___ I included many relevant ideas to support my thesis.