

APSU Writing Center

Body Paragraphs

What is a Body Paragraph?

- A body paragraph is where you develop the key ideas introduced in your thesis statement and provide detailed evidence to support your argument. Each body paragraph should focus on one main idea that contributes to the overall purpose of your paper.

Key Components of an Effective Body

1. **Topic Sentence:** Clearly introduce the main idea of the paragraph that directly supports your thesis.
2. **Evidence:** Provide supporting details, such as facts, quotes, examples, or statistics, that strengthen the paragraph's argument.
3. **Explanation:** Analyze the evidence and explain its relevance to your main argument.
4. **Transition:** Use transitional sentences to smoothly connect one paragraph to the next, ensuring a logical flow in your essay.

Paragraph Formatting P.I.E Method

1. **Point** - The main idea or point that the paragraph is going to make. Includes a topic sentence and gives direction for the following sentences. What are you trying to tell your audience?
2. **Illustration or Information** - includes supporting evidence to back up the main point. It can include facts, quotes, paraphrases, statistics, and more.
3. **Explanation** - tells the audience why each piece of information is included in the paragraph. It can only work when the illustration and the point are connected.

Paragraph Formatting M.E.A.L Method

1. **Main Ideas** - Topic Sentences introduce your paragraphs with new information. The topic sentence (thesis) makes a specific and detailed claim.
2. **Evidence** - must support your topic sentence. This can consist of citations from other works, paraphrased information, and more.
3. **Analysis** - Evidence should be supported with an analysis that reiterates why it should be included.
4. **Link** - Link the evidence and analysis back to the thesis statement and the following paragraph.
Why did you include this information

Things to remember

- Each paragraph should center on a single point that supports your thesis.
- Use precise language and detailed evidence to strengthen your argument.
- Ensure that your evidence and explanations are clear and well-connected to your main argument.
- Smooth transitions between paragraphs help your essay flow and make it easier for the reader to follow your argument.



APSU Writing Center References

Gehring, M. (2014). *Developing Body Paragraphs*. San José State University Writing Center.
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