

APSU Writing Center
Paragraph Formatting

How to format a paragraph

- For every sentence you include in your paragraph, include supporting evidence for your claims.
- A strategy to follow involves the acronym MEAL which stands for
 - **M - Main Ideas**
 - Topic Sentences introduce your paragraphs with new information. The topic sentence (thesis) makes a specific and detailed claim.
 - **E - Evidence**
 - The evidence you include must support your topic sentence. This can consist of citations from other works, paraphrased information, and more.
 - Example phrase: According to Smith...
 - **A - Analysis**
 - Your evidence should be supported with an analysis that reiterates why it should be included. This works to connect the main idea and the evidence.
 - Example phrase: This research proves...
 - **L - Link or Lead Out**
 - Link the evidence and analysis back to the thesis statement and the following paragraph.
 - Remind your audience of this paragraph's relevance.
 - Why did you include this information?

M	Introduce your paragraph topic:
E	Give evidence to support your topic sentence:
A	Analyze your evidence and explain why it is important:
L	Give evidence to support your topic sentence:



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References

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