

APSU Writing Center

Paragraph Formatting RACES Method

How to Format a Paragraph

- When writing an academic paragraph, each sentence should work together to develop your main point clearly and logically. To achieve this, use the **R**estate, **A**nswer, **C**ite, **E**xplain, and **S**ummarize (RACES) structure. This method helps you present a well-organized argument supported by evidence, making your ideas more convincing and easier to follow.
 - **R - Restate**
 - Rephrase the question or prompt in your own words.
 - Question: "What is the effect of social media on teenage self-esteem?"
 - Example: "The effect of social media on teenage self-esteem is a widely discussed issue today."
 - **A - Answer**
 - Directly address the question with your response.
 - Example: "Social media negatively impacts teenagers' self-esteem, mainly due to unrealistic beauty standards."
 - **C - Cite**
 - Support your answer with evidence, such as facts, quotes, or statistics.
 - Example: "According to a 2023 study by the American Psychological Association, 60% of teenagers report feeling inadequate about their appearance after using social media" (APA, 2023).
 - **E - Explain**
 - Elaborate on your answer, providing reasoning or clarification.
 - Example: "The pressure to compare oneself to idealized images on platforms like Instagram can lead to insecurity and low self-worth."
 - **S - Summarize**
 - Restate your main points to reinforce your argument.
 - Example: "In conclusion, social media's negative impact on self-esteem is significant, and addressing it is crucial."

RACES Paragraph Method

R

(Restate): Restate the question:

A

(Answer): Answer the question in your own words:

C

(Cite): Cite the evidence or examples:

E

(Explain): Explain and give details:

S

(Sum): Summarize it:



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References

LMB Literacy. (2019, October 19). *The RACE Strategy Method and Why you should be teaching it in your classroom*. LMB Literacy. <https://lmbliteracy.com/2019/10/19/why-you-need-to-be-teaching-the-r-a-c-e-writing-strategy/>

Purdue University College of Science. (n.d.). *RACES writing strategy*. Purdue University. <https://www.purdue.edu/science/K12/races.html>