



Body Paragraphs

Ms. Bishop
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Developing Body Paragraphs



- Body paragraphs present evidence or main ideas that support your paper's thesis.
 - Each body paragraph should introduce a main idea, give examples or evidence, and analyze examples or evidence.
 - To maintain clarity, each body paragraph should contain only one main idea.
- There is no set number of body paragraphs that you need for your paper

Structuring Body Paragraphs

1. **Topic Sentence** to state main idea
2. Concrete detail or "evidence" to support main idea
3. **Analysis** of this evidence
4. Concrete detail
5. **Analysis**
6. **Transition Sentence** to relate body paragraph back to your **thesis** or to connect to the next body paragraph



Writing Topic Sentences

A **topic sentence** functions like a mini-thesis in that it lets the reader know what the main idea of the paragraph will be, and why this idea is important.

Strong **topic sentences**:

- Use **transitional phrases**
- Specifically name a main idea
- Do not reveal too much about the evidence (that's what the rest of the paragraph does)





Writing Topic Sentences

- Tip #1: Echo language from your thesis
 - Example: Shakespeare uses the chorus to indicate early on in the play that Romeo and Juliet cannot escape their fate, try as they might.
- Tip #2: use transitional phrases
 - Example: Similarly, Shakespeare's characterization of the two lovers as naïve illustrates the idea that it is foolish to try to escape fate.

Use Concrete Details

What makes for good evidence? Consider using:

- Paraphrased examples from your research
- In-text quotations

When using concrete details, avoid:

- Dropping evidence in without any context or framing
- Not including the proper citation, in parenthesis and in text
- Forgetting to analyze the evidence's meaning





Try a Quote Sandwich!

A Quote Sandwich

Top bread – quote set up

Filling – cite the quote

Bottom bread – analyze the quote

Example:

The chorus introduces us to the setting of the play and to our two main characters. In this metered song, the chorus refers to Romeo and Juliet as “star-crossed lovers” (2). This phrase functions to illustrate that the lovers are not meant to be together, based on some celestial ordination, or destiny. Since it is used at the play’s beginning, before we even meet the characters or before any action happens, this phrase creates an element of foreshadowing. We know that their attempts to be together will be futile in the end.

Transitional Sentences

- *Don't end with analysis...doing so may make your body paragraphs seem like separate, disconnected ideas.*
- *In order for body paragraphs to work together, transition sentences are necessary!*
- *Effective transition sentences connect your analysis back to the thesis.*



Review: Body Paragraphs

- Keep the *thesis* in mind as you write each paragraph
- Write clear *topic sentences* that relate somehow to the *thesis* and add supporting detail
- Use *transitions* between paragraphs to help your reader follow your line of thought
- Refer frequently back to the draft *Outline!* It is the *blueprint* to insure you keep the *thesis* in mind, write strong arguments and keep the conclusion in sight.

Writing is a Process

Strong essays cannot be written overnight!

It's a **PROCESS** that includes revision or re (back) vision (see). In other words, going back multiple times before the final draft.

