

## **APSU Writing Center**

### **A Cell-Based Guide to Writing**

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Just like a cell, your paper is made up of different parts that work together to create a cohesive and successful piece of writing.

- The cell membrane represents you, the writer, the most important part of your paper.
- Just as the cell membrane holds everything together and controls what enters and exits, you keep the paper organized, deciding what stays in and what gets cut.

#### **Cytoplasm (Structure of the Paper)**

- The cytoplasm fills the cell and keeps everything in place.
- Similarly, the structure of your paper keeps your ideas organized. Without a solid structure, your ideas can become unclear.

#### **Cytoskeleton (Introduction):**

- The cytoskeleton shapes the cell and gives it strength.
- Your introduction shapes your paper, sets the direction, and provides context for the reader.

#### **Mitochondria (Purpose of the Paper):**

- The mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell, providing energy.
- In the same way, the purpose of your paper gives it direction and energy. Without a clear purpose, your paper lacks focus.

#### **Nucleus (Thesis):**

- The nucleus holds the cell's genetic information and directs its activities.
- Your thesis defines your paper's purpose and guides your reader through the arguments.

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**Golgi Apparatus (Introductory Sentence):**

- The Golgi apparatus packages proteins for delivery.
- Your introductory sentence packages the main idea of your paragraph, giving the reader a preview of what's to come.

**Microtubules (Supporting Evidence):**

- Microtubules help organize the cell and transport materials.
- Your supporting evidence organizes your argument and guides it toward a clear conclusion.

**Ribosomes (Synthesizing Evidence):**

- Ribosomes build proteins by linking amino acids.
- Synthesize your evidence, linking it together to build a strong, convincing argument.

**Endoplasmic Reticulum (Transitions):**

- The Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) moves materials around inside the cell.
- Your transition sentences help guide the reader smoothly from one idea to the next, making sure your paper flows logically.

**Lysosomes (Conclusion):**

- Lysosomes digest materials in the cell, breaking down waste and food.
- Your conclusion works the same way, taking all the information you've presented and digesting it into a clear takeaway for your reader.

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A Cell-Based Guide to Writing Outline

**Introduction Paragraph**

**Cytoskeleton** (Introduction): Provides structure and context, introduces the topic and sets the stage.

**Mitochondria** (Purpose of the Paper): Explains why the topic matters and what the paper aims to do.

**Nucleus** (Thesis): States the central argument or main claim, typically one sentence.

**Body Paragraphs**

**Golgi Apparatus** (Introductory Sentence): Packages and prepares the main idea of the paragraph.

**Microtubules** (Supporting Evidence): Lays out specific facts, examples, or quotes that support the thesis.

**Ribosomes** (Synthesizing Evidence): Combines sources and ideas to build and develop arguments.

**Endoplasmic Reticulum** (Transitions): Moves ideas smoothly from one part of the paper to another.

**Conclusion Paragraph**

**Lysosomes** (Conclusion): Breaks down and summarizes the findings; restates the thesis and its significance.

**Vesicles** (Writing Support): Getting a second pair of eyes, such as a writing tutor or peer review.



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### **References**

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<https://www.southwestern.edu/live/files/4167-guide-for-writing-in-biologypdf>

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