

Body Paragraphs

APSU Writing Center Handout

A body paragraph develops the key ideas introduced in the thesis statement. It provides detailed evidence to support the thesis by focusing on one main point per paragraph.

Key Components of an Effective Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence

- Introduce(s) the main idea that supports the thesis statement in the introduction paragraph.

Evidence

- Include(s) facts, quotes, examples, or statistics to strengthen the argument.

Explanation

- Analyze(s) the evidence and explain its relevance to the main argument.

Transition Sentence

- Connect(s) one paragraph to the next in a final sentence.

M.E.A.L Method for Body Paragraphs

- **Main Ideas:** Introduce the paragraph with a topic sentence making a specific claim.
- **Evidence:** Provide supporting evidence such as facts, quotes, paraphrases, or statistics.
- **Analysis:** Explain why the evidence matters and how it connects to the argument.
- **Link:** Connect the paragraph back to the thesis and lead into the next paragraph.

Things to Remember

- Focus each paragraph on one main point that supports your thesis.
- Use specific evidence and clear explanations.
- Ensure evidence and analysis are logically connected.
- Use smooth transitions for a natural essay flow.

References

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

<https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/Body%20Paragraphs.pdf>

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