

Writing Well-Organized Body Paragraphs

Body paragraphs are the building blocks of your paper and support your thesis. Therefore, it's important to organize body paragraphs in a logical order as well as the content within each of the paragraphs. Once you understand the components of a body paragraph, organizing your thoughts and ideas to match the layout will help you effectively get your rough draft completed while keeping the flow of information clear and concise for your readers.

Parts of a Well-Organized Body Paragraph

Topic	Every body paragraph begins with a topic sentence that relates back to your thesis and lets the reader know the point of the paragraph.
Evidence	The topic sentence is usually supported with evidence in the form of facts, examples, descriptions, quotations, paraphrases, statistics, anecdotes, etc. that illustrate your claim. Choose evidence that is appropriate for your paper, and introduce it with enough context for your reader to understand it.
Analysis	After each piece of evidence, you must explain to the reader why and how it is relevant and what it means for your thesis. Do not expect your reader to see it how you see or think that it is obvious enough to stand alone. A list of facts alone won't make a convincing argument to your readers. Your analysis should connect back to your thesis, giving your readers the link to see the relevance of the evidence you provided.
Significance	Now it's time to tell your readers why this matters and why it is important to know what you are showing them. Show the connection between the Topic, Evidence, and Analysis.
Transition	Your transition sentence will show how the ideas within your body paragraph connect to the next body paragraph. Integrating transitional devices (see <i>Transitions</i> handout) give a signal to your reader and help them understand your organization.

Side Note on Ordering Your Body Paragraphs:

Aside from organizing the information within your body paragraphs, you also need to consider how your body paragraphs should be ordered in relation to each other. This will need a logical flow from one point to the next, so your transition sentences to show this logic are important.

TIPS:

- ❖ A Body Paragraph can have more than one piece of evidence. However, be careful that you write a separate analysis for each piece of evidence you present.

- ❖ Different types of papers will require different evidence. For example, a scientific research paper will require facts, whereas a personal narrative will probably use details about an event.
- ❖ Different types of papers will also require different amounts of evidence; however, be careful not to give too much information or give more than a few relevant examples per body paragraph.
- ❖ Remember to introduce and cite any evidence you use from outside sources in the format required by the assignment.
- ❖ Copy and paste your body paragraphs into a separate document to check how different orders affect the paper.
- ❖ Order of importance: put your strongest argument first.
- ❖ Chronological order: good for personal narratives and papers focused on timelines.
- ❖ Clump body paragraphs that are related to each other (makes transitions easier).

Let's write down some ideas!

Being by writing your thesis below:

Topic 1:

Topic Sentence	
Evidence 1	
Analysis 1	
Evidence 2	
Analysis 2	
Significance	
Transition	

Now it's your turn! Turn your ideas into a rough draft in the box below.

Now ask yourself (ideally as you read the paper out loud):

- How do I feel about this paragraph?
- Did I support the Topic Sentence? Does it relate to my thesis?
- Did I say anything that is supported by this topic sentence in another paragraph?
- Did I write an analysis for every piece of evidence I presented? Did I cite the evidence?
- Did I write a transition showing a connection from the current paragraph to the next?
- Is the paragraph too long (more than 10 sentences)?

You're doing great!

Now that you have an idea of how to write well-organized body paragraphs, go try it on your own for your next topic sentence. You may want to write an outline to follow to help you stay organized. If you have any questions, use CLAS writing services and have a tutor look at your work with you to make sure that you are hitting all the main points of body paragraph structure.