

Essay Writing

BODY PARAGRAPHS & TOPIC SENTENCES

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Outline

Body Paragraphs

1. Topic Sentence
2. Examples, Quotes, Evidence
3. Explanations
4. Transitions

Topic Sentence

- Topic sentence - a single sentence located at the beginning of each body paragraph that expresses the main idea of the paragraph.
- Think of it as a **label** for the body paragraph.
 - Readers should know what the paragraph will be about simply by reading the topic sentence.

Topic Sentence

- **A good topic sentence will...**
 - ☒ be a single, declarative sentence
 - ☒ convey the main idea of the paragraph
 - ☒ be precise – use precise and specific words
 - ☒ be brief – only include important information
 - ☒ be clear

Supporting Examples

- **A good supporting example will...**
 - ☒ support the topic sentence and thesis statement
 - ☒ include facts, quotes, and details
 - ☒ be directly related to the main point in which you are trying to establish

Explanations

- After you state your topic sentence and provide an example, you will want to explain your example.
- The explanation is your own words connecting your example to your topic sentence to provide a point.

Explanations

- **A good explanation will...**
 - ☒ be written in your own words
 - ☒ link the example to the topic sentence
 - ☒ help link multiple examples together
 - ☒ present the audience with thought-provoking information

Transitions/Closing

- Once you have provide adequate examples and explanations, you will complete each body paragraph with either a transition or a closing statement.
- Using transitions when you have more body paragraphs to write.
- Use a closing statement when you complete your last body paragraph.

Transitions

- **A good transition will...**
 - ☒ logically link one topic to another
 - ☒ inform the reader that you have additional points to make
 - ☒ lead into the next body paragraph