

The Body Paragraph

The Purpose of a Body Paragraph:

The point of having body paragraphs in your paper is to explain and develop the points that you made in your introductory paragraph and your thesis statement. This is where you argue the points of your essay.

The Purpose is NOT...

To repeat what has been said in your introduction or another body paragraph.

What is welcome in a body paragraph:

- A fantastic topic sentence that relates to your thesis
- Specific and inviting language
- A single idea
- Arguments
- Transitions
- Varied sentences
- Support from the text (if there is one)

What does not belong:

- “I” or “You”
- Slang or “blah” language
- Another scenario

Now let's break it down...

The topic sentence:

- Your topic sentence is the sentence that focuses the paragraph and outlines exactly what that paragraph is going to be about.

After the topic sentence...

- devote the rest of that entire paragraph to developing more specifically that statement, using examples to back up the points you make
- Devote each body paragraph to only one point. DO NOT try to include too much information into each paragraph.
- each statement that you make after your topic sentence should relate directly to your topic sentence
- Make sure that you phrase everything clearly so that your specific audience can understand what you are trying to say.
- Use the text (if you have one) to support your assertions

And how do I end it?

- Each body paragraph should be ended by making a reference back to the topic sentence you started the paragraph with and then back to your thesis statement to tie it all together

Each of Your Paragraphs Should Contain These Elements: UNITY, DEVELOPMENT, and COHERENCE

Paragraph Unity: Paragraph Unity means that your paragraph develops one main point, that is set forth by your topic sentence, and that all of the sentences in the paragraph relate to and support that main point.

Paragraph Development: Paragraph Development means that you have included all of the necessary information, explanation and support for your main point or topic sentence so that your reader fully understands the point you are trying to make.

Paragraph Coherence: Paragraph Coherence means that you have developed your point in an organized and logical way, which shows the connections between your sentences and ideas.

And don't forget those transitions!

Transitions are one of the most important aspects of the body of your paper. Transitions between paragraphs as well as between sentences are essential in order for a paper to be readable, for the reader to fully understand the connections between the points you are trying to make and for the overall coherence of your essay. The use of transitions creates one unified paper instead of several smaller papers all thrown together under a similar larger topic.

Where Do We Need Transitions?

Between Sections -- This divides the major ideas or topics of your paper

Between Paragraphs -- This divides the minor ideas of your writing because you must show a logical connection between your paragraphs.

Between Sentences -- This shows the relationship between your sentences.

Between Parts of a Sentence -- This shows how phrases connect within your sentences.