

Paragraph Development

Paragraphs are an important part of essays, discussion posts, and many other forms of writing. When writing a paragraph, there are several things you'll want to keep an eye out for. Structuring a paragraph involves many steps, which are outlined below.

Topic Sentences

This sentence will inform the reader, and you, what the paragraph will be about. It is important to limit each paragraph to discussing only one thing, which means your topic sentence should only be about that one thing. The body of your paragraph should connect to the main idea expressed in your topic sentence. Often, the topic sentence is found at the beginning of the paragraph. You can think of it almost like a thesis statement for each body paragraph.

Paragraph Body

After your topic sentence, you will want to include information to support that topic sentence. This can include [quote sandwiches](#), personal experiences, real-life examples, statistics, etc, which will serve as evidence for your topic sentence. Often, your entire body paragraph will consist of multiple quote sandwiches, each time introducing quotes and then explaining/expanding upon those quotes. This will act as the main part of your paragraph and will make up the bulk of your essay. Again, each paragraph should be on the topic addressed in your topic sentence, sticking to one idea.

Tips and Tricks:

- If you find you have more to say about a topic unrelated to your topic sentence, consider adding a new paragraph!
- Your paragraph should flow from one sentence to the next and one quote sandwich to the next. Some good transitional signal words include
 - Moreover
 - Furthermore
 - Additionally
 - Beyond
 - Although
 - Consequently
 - On the other hand
 - Conversely
- Each paragraph should be adequately developed. Make sure you've supported your topic sentence within the paragraph. Here are some things you can use to develop your paragraphs:
 - Examples
 - An analogy
 - More details

- Needed definitions
- Facts and/or statistics
- Explanations of the credibility or relevance of the sources you use
- Your quotes and evidence will support your topic sentence, and your topic sentence will support your thesis.
- The evidence you put into your paragraph should always come from credible sources!
- Remember to wrap up your paragraph with a closing sentence that leads into your next topic/paragraph. The structure should look like this: topic sentence (opening); body sentences (supporting ideas, evidence, quotes); closing sentence (transition).