

WRITING 03

THE BODY PARAGRAPH

DEVELOP YOUR IDEAS, SUPPORT THEM WITH EVIDENCE, AND EXPLAIN WHY THEY MATTER.



PURPOSE

Body paragraphs explain and develop your main points. Each paragraph should focus on **ONE** main idea that supports your thesis.



Strong body paragraphs build a strong essay.

THE 5 KEY PARTS

- 1 TOPIC SENTENCE**
Introduce the main idea of your paragraph.
- 2 EVIDENCE**
Provide facts, statistics, quotes or examples.
- 3 EXPLANATION**
Explain how the evidence supports your point.
- 4 ANALYSIS**
Go deeper—analyse the importance or impact.
- 5 LINKING SENTENCE**
Connect back to the essay or to the next paragraph.

EXAMPLE BODY PARAGRAPH (ANNOTATED)

- 1** → Social media improves communication among young people.
- 2** → For example, a Pew Research survey (2023) found that 72% of teenagers say social media helps them stay in touch with friends. Messaging apps and online platforms allow instant contact, regardless of distance or time zone. This evidence shows that social media makes it much easier for young people to maintain relationships.
- 3** → Moreover, this constant connection can provide emotional support and a sense of belonging, which is especially important during challenging times. However, it can also lead to distractions and reduce face-to-face interaction if not managed carefully.
- 4** →
- 5** → **Rephrased.** Therefore, while social media clearly enhances communication, it is important to use it in a balanced way.

WHAT IT SHOWS

- States the main idea clearly.
- Provides evidence to support the idea.
- Explains how the evidence proves the point.
- Analyses the significance or impact.
- Links back to the essay or sets up the next idea.

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR PARAGRAPH

- 1 TOPIC SENTENCE**
 - Make it clear and specific.
 - Avoid starting with "Firstly..." or "In this paragraph..."
- 2 EVIDENCE**
 - Use reliable sources.
 - Include facts, statistics, examples or quotes.
 - Be specific.
- 3 EXPLANATION**
 - Explain in your own words.
 - Show how the evidence supports your topic sentence.
- 4 ANALYSIS**
 - Go beyond the obvious.
 - Why does this matter?
 - What are the effects or implications?
- 5 LINKING SENTENCE**
 - Refer back to the thesis, another paragraph, or look forward.
 - Keep the flow.

STRONG vs WEAK BODY PARAGRAPHS

WEAK ❌

- The internet is good.
- It helps people.
- There are many apps.
- I think it is useful.

- ❌ Too general
- ❌ No evidence
- ❌ No explanation or analysis
- ❌ No clear focus

STRONG ✅

- States a clear idea.
- Supports with evidence.
- Explains how it supports.
- Analyses the impact.
- Links to the essay.

- ✅ Specific and focused
- ✅ Evidence used
- ✅ Explained and analysed
- ✅ Well developed
- ✅ Good structure

USEFUL PHRASES

- TOPIC SENTENCE**
 - One important reason is ...
 - A key factor to consider is ...
 - Another advantage / disadvantage is ...
- EVIDENCE**
 - According to ...
 - Research shows that ...
 - For instance, ...
 - A study by ... found that ...
- EXPLANATION**
 - This shows that ...
 - This means that ...
 - In other words, ...
- ANALYSIS**
 - This is significant because ...
 - As a result, ...
 - This leads to ...
- LINKING SENTENCE**
 - Therefore, ...
 - This connects to ...
 - This leads us to the next point ...

PARAGRAPH CHECKLIST

- ✅ I have a clear topic sentence.
- ✅ I have used specific evidence.
- ✅ I have explained the evidence.
- ✅ I have analysed the impact or significance.
- ✅ I have linked to the essay.
- ✅ I have used formal language.
- ✅ My paragraph is well organised.
- ✅ I have checked my spelling and punctuation.
- ★ Does it support my thesis?

COMMON MISTAKES

- ❌ Writing about too many ideas in one paragraph.
- ❌ Giving evidence without explaining it.
- ❌ Stating the obvious—no analysis.
- ❌ Forgetting to link to the essay.
- ❌ Using informal language or personal opinions.



CHALLENGE: IMPROVE IT!

Rewrite the weak paragraph using the 5 parts of a strong body paragraph.

Social media is helpful. It has many features. People can chat and share pictures. It is good because it helps. It is important.

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STRONG BODY PARAGRAPHS = STRONG ESSAYS!

Focus your idea. Support it well. Explain it clearly. Analyse it deeply. Link it logically.

