



## Paragraph Development: Structure & Organization



A strong body paragraph clearly supports the thesis of a well-organized essay. Begin with a topic sentence that sets up the claim for the paragraph. Provide more detail, define terms, or clarify the claim in the explanation before introducing the first example. Don't forget to connect the examples directly to the argument. Use the steps below to build clear, focused, and developed paragraphs.

Step	What to Do	Why it Matters
Topic Sentence	Introduce the main idea of the paragraph.	Sets up the paragraph and will argue or explore.
Explain the Topic Sentence	Provide more detail, define terms, or clarify the claim.	Helps the reader understand the significance of the point.
First Example	Introduce evidence or specific example (quote, event, observation, etc.).	Supports the argument with concrete material.
Explain the Example	Analyze how the example supports the point.	Connects the example directly to the argument.
Second Example	Add another piece of evidence.	Deepens the complexity of the paragraph.
Explain the Example	Analyze how the example supports the point.	Connects the example directly to the argument.
Transition Sentence	Wrap up and lead into the next idea.	Moves the argument forward.



Now, develop one of your paragraphs!

1. Topic sentence
2. Explain your topic sentence
3. Give an example that illustrates the point.
4. Explain how the example illustrates
5. Give another example that illustrates the point.
6. Explain how the example illustrates
7. Transition to next topic sentence.



## PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

START WITH YOUR TOPIC SENTENCE AND EXPAND!

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WRITE 2-3 SENTENCES TO EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN IN THE TOPIC SENTENCE.

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GIVE A QUOTE OR EXAMPLE THAT ILLUSTRATES THE POINT YOU MAKE IN YOUR TOPIC SENTENCE.

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EXPLAIN HOW YOUR EVIDENCE/QUOTE ILLUSTRATES YOUR POINT.

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