

Summary sheet on body paragraphs in an essay

1. Each body paragraph usually contains **one major point** in the discussion promised by the thesis statement.

2. Each major point can be presented in a **topic sentence** of a paragraph:

topic sentence: supports thesis by clearly stating a main point in the discussion.
 announces what paragraph is about.
 controls subject matter of paragraph as everything in it should
 relate to and support the topic sentence.

in this way, the topic sentence functions like a **mini thesis statement** - presents 1 idea on a narrow subject and it should be expressed clearly and specifically.

3. Each paragraph should be adequately developed with clear supporting detail.

evidence: reasoned arguments
 examples – real or hypothetical
 personal experiences, memories, observations
 facts, statistics, other people's testimony, research

specific examples and details give you a better chance of convincing your reader of the main argument.

do not be vague and don't repeat yourself. ask yourself, "have I provided enough precise details to make the reader see what I want them to?"

4. Every sentence in the paragraph should support the topic sentence.

unity: paragraph should stick to subject announced by topic sentence. Don't end a paragraph with a new idea

5. There should be an **orderly, logical flow** from sentence to sentence and from thought to thought.

6. The sequence of your essays paragraphs should be **logical and effective**. There should be a **smooth flow** from paragraph to paragraph.

7. The body paragraphs should successfully **persuade your reader** that the opinion expressed in your thesis is valid.