

Essay Body Paragraph Format

1) A Topic sentence. This introduces the thesis point that this body paragraph will be focused on. It DOES NOT make a claim nor will it be a quote.

Eg: The first facet to examine when looking at why the Yankees are the best team in baseball is their team history.

2) Elaborate. Take 2 – 3 sentences to expand on your topic sentence. Provide a bit of back ground to what the body paragraph will be focused on. You can make reference to your research (direct quote or paraphrased information) to help clarify what you are talking about.

3) Make a claim/state an opinion. This is done in 3rd person which means that you do not use 1st person (I, me, we, you, us, our, etc...)

4) Support your claim or opinion with researched fact from one of your sources. This must be parenthetically referenced, if it isn't it will be considered plagiarism and you will receive a mark of zero on your essay and face consequences such as being expelled and black listed without any sort of refund.

5) Relevancy. Make the connection between the claim you made, the support you gave, and the focus of the paragraph. Ask yourself "so what? What does what I've just quoted have anything to do with my essay and the focus of the paragraph? The answer to this question is what you will write.

6) Repeat steps 3, 4, and 5. Remember, you can't convince anybody of anything with just one example.

7) Conclude paragraph. This is 1 sentence that connects the paragraph to the thesis sentence.

Eg: Hence (Thus or Therefore), it is clearly visible how the team history of the New York Yankees makes them the best team in baseball.

NOW... for the topic sentences of your 2nd and 3rd body paragraphs you will need a transition in it. Eg: Along with team history, the next area that will be discussed when proving why the Yankees are the best team in baseball is their fan base.

THESIS SENTENCES

Writing a thesis sentence can be a real challenge but without one your essays will have no purpose which will anger and frustrate your reader. So...say my topic is to choose one major league baseball team and argue why they are the best. For myself, it would have to be the New York Yankees.

Once I have chosen my team I need to come up with reasons to support why I feel this way and am, ultimately right. Through my research I discover the following:

- a) There is a strong team history
- b) They have a great fan base
- c) They have a fantastic farm system which produces talented baseball players
- d) They have a lot of money

I can't have 4 thesis points, generally in high school your essays will only have 3. I have to now whittle this list of 4 to 3 and once I have done that I have to figure out which of my 3 points is the strongest, second strongest, and weakest as this will effect where they are in my thesis and essay.

I narrow them down as follows:

- a) Fan base – 2nd strongest
- b) Money - weakest
- c) Team history – strongest

This will be the order they appear in my thesis sentence which will also be the order they appear as body paragraphs in the essay. Always save your strongest point for last (finish strong) and bury your weakest in the middle...thus, by default, you will begin with your second strongest when writing your essay.

Thus, your thesis sentence will look something like this:

Specifically, their fan base, the money they have to spend on players, and their team history all graphically illustrate why the New York Yankees are the greatest team in baseball.

For your essays, simply take out my 3 thesis points and add yours in, maybe modify the text so it makes sense and you'll have a good thesis sentence. Eg:

Specifically, _____, _____, and _____ all graphically illustrate (or some variation of this) why.....(whatever it is you are trying to prove).