

Writing a Text-Based, Expository or Argument Body Paragraph

1. Write **topic sentence** with a statement of reason, using words from your claim (remember to indent).

2. Incorporate **evidence** properly:

A. Start second sentence with “For example, _____” or “One reason is _____” or “First, _____”

B. Provide context for the evidence (background information that prepares the reader to make sense of the evidence—this might be the main idea of an article; the historical, political or cultural context of an event; or the data in a chart/graph). The sentence might begin with a phrase like, “At the beginning of the speech...” or “Before the beginning of World War I...” or “According to the chart....”

C. Introduce the evidence (who says this or where do you see these words in the text). The sentence might begin with a phrase like, “The author explains...” or “The data in the table suggests....” (Quotations are introduced with a comma, a colon, or are embedded into one’s own sentence.)

(Steps A, B, and C might be in the same sentence)

D. Copy the evidence exactly, putting it in quotation marks

E. “Cite evidence properly“ (22, or Source A, or Table C).

3. **Explain** the evidence in your own words. This sentence might begin with a phrase like “What the author means is...” or “The data presented shows...” or “Statistics like these point to....”

4. **Analyze** the evidence—how and why this evidence is important and supports the claim. This sentence might begin with a phrase like “This comment is important because...” or “The author’s question matters since...” or “This fact is significant as it...” or “The article’s point of view suggests...”

(Steps 3 and 4 might be combined in a few sentences.)

5. **Provide a concluding sentence** that ties back to/connects with the claim (it helps to check it next to topic sentence to make sure the key words “match”).

(Repeat steps 2, 3, 4—with a transition-- if you want to use more than one piece of evidence)