

Support Paragraphs

Well-developed paragraphs support their topic sentences with concrete details, lively examples and illustrations, or well developed, clearly worded arguments. The relation between the specific, concrete details and your thesis statement must be clearly spelled out for your reader.

Forms of Supporting Material

In order to hold your readers' attention, you must give them something worth reading. Essays containing paragraphs that are not adequately developed simply waste your readers' time; therefore, you must bring in enough specific detail to keep the reading interesting. In fact, your goal should be to capture on paper your memories (narration), mental images (description), or reasoning processes (**exposition** and **argumentation**) in such a carefully detailed and ordered fashion that your readers cannot help but recreate the mental images or reasoning processes in their own minds.

Topic Sentence—A topic sentence in a body or support paragraph should:

1. Clearly state the topic of the paragraph.
2. Clearly link the topic of the paragraph back to the thesis statement.
3. Make a smooth transition between the previous paragraph and the present paragraph.

The *topic sentence* comes at the beginning of each body paragraph.

Concrete Examples or Details from the Text—Good writers always include concrete evidence to support the topic sentence and the explanation and development. **For your essay, you will need to reference specific details and events from the texts you are using.**

A Concluding Sentence that Restates the Main Point of the Paragraph—It is very easy to wander off topic in a paragraph, and a concluding statement that restates the topic or point of the paragraph keeps the reader focused on your argument or discussion.

Support
Paragraph

1. **Topic sentence** that introduces the name of the text and ties into thesis.
2. **Example** with details from text fully explained.
3. A **second example** with details from the text fully explained. *Use a transition word to connect the two examples together.*
4. **Concluding sentence**

