

How to Write Body Paragraphs

The bottom of the slide features a series of overlapping, wavy lines in various shades of teal and light blue, creating a modern, abstract design.

Body Paragraph Order

- * Essays typically have at least 3 body paragraphs.
- * Your essay will have 4 body paragraphs because you have 3 points in your thesis statement and you will also have one counterpoint.
- * The order of body paragraphs follows the order of your thesis points.

Body Paragraph Order

- * Thesis Statement Example:
 - * Rainsford is one of the bravest characters in literature because he is not easily frightened, he jumps into the sea, and he defeats Zaroff by outsmarting him.
- * The first point in the thesis is that Rainsford is not easily frightened, so the first body paragraph will be about this topic.

Body Paragraph Structure

- * The strongest body paragraphs follow this structure:
 - * **Topic sentence**
 - * **Evidence**
 - * **Analysis**
 - * **Link sentence**

Topic Sentence

- * A Topic sentence is one sentence that starts with a transitional word or phrase and then introduces thesis point #1 as its topic.
- * Transitional words and phrases:

First	Next	However
Last	Although	Nevertheless
As a result	In addition	In conclusion

Basic Formula:

(Transition word), (Main Idea of paper) because (Thesis Point #1).

Topic Sentence Example

- * Thesis:

- * Rainsford is one of the bravest characters in literature because he is not easily frightened, he jumps into the sea, and he defeats Zaroff by outsmarting him.

- * Thesis Point #1 = Rainsford is not easily frightened.

- * Body Paragraph #1 Topic sentence:

- * First of all, Rainsford is very courageous due to the fact that he does not scare easily, even if in a life or death situation.



Evidence

- * The Evidence portion of a body paragraph follows the Topic sentence.
- * To provide Evidence, you should have at least one example that proves that the Topic sentence is true.
- * Quotes from a story, speech, letter, article, biography, autobiography, etc. count as examples.
- * The Evidence section should be 2 to 4 sentences.

Evidence Example

- * Body Paragraph #1 Topic sentence:
 - * First of all, Rainsford is very courageous due to the fact that he does not scare easily, even if in a life or death situation.
- * Body Paragraph #1 Evidence:
 - * For example, when Rainsford falls overboard at the start of the story, the narrator says that “a certain coolheadedness had come to him; it was not the first time he had been in a tight place” (Connell 15).
- * **Note: To make an even stronger point, I could provide another example of Rainsford’s fearlessness. Any ideas?**



Analysis

- * The Analysis comes directly after the Evidence part of your body paragraph.
- * An Analysis is an explanation of how your Evidence accomplishes proving the Topic sentence is true.
- * The Analysis should be 1 to 3 sentences in length.

Analysis Example

- * Body Paragraph #1 Topic sentence:
 - * First of all, Rainsford is very courageous due to the fact that he does not scare easily, even if in a life or death situation.
- * Body Paragraph #1 Evidence:
 - * For example, when Rainsford falls overboard at the start of the story, the narrator says that a “certain coolheadedness had come to him; it was not the first time he had been in a tight place” (Connell 15).
- * Body Paragraph #1 Analysis:
 - * Even though he is now alone and stranded on the dreaded Ship-Trap Island of the Caribbean, Rainsford stays cool, calm, and collected, proving that it takes a lot to frighten him.



Link Sentence

- * The Link sentence is last part of a body paragraph.
- * A Link sentence is a sentence that relates to this paragraph's Topic sentence and also transitions to the next paragraph.
- * The Link sentence should be only one sentence.

Link Sentence Example

- * Body Paragraph #1 Topic sentence:
 - * First of all, Rainsford is very courageous due to the fact that he does not scare easily, even if in a life or death situation.
- * Thesis:
 - * Rainsford is one of the bravest characters in literature because he is not easily frightened, he jumps into the sea, and he defeats Zaroff by outsmarting him.
- * Body Paragraph #1 Link sentence:
 - * Rainsford shows great bravery when falling overboard does not scare him, but he displays even more courage when he purposely plunges into the sea.

T.E.A.L. Body Paragraph

- * First of all, Rainsford is very courageous due to the fact that he does not scare easily, even if in a life or death situation. For example, when Rainsford falls overboard at the start of the story, the narrator says that a “certain coolheadedness had come to him; it was not the first time he had been in a tight place” (Connell 15). Even though he is now alone and stranded on the dreaded Ship-Trap Island of the Caribbean, Rainsford stays cool, calm, and collected, proving that it takes a lot to frighten him. Rainsford shows great bravery when falling overboard does not scare him, but he displays even more courage when he purposely plunges into the sea.

Counterargument Paragraph

Counter-argument Paragraph

The purpose of the counter-argument is to strengthen your argument by refuting (or disproving) arguments that other people may have.

How to do this:

1. Introduce an argument that could be made against yours (Topic Sentence)
2. Provide solid examples/evidence (Evidence)
3. Analyze your examples (Analysis)
4. Conclusion sentence reiterating point (Link Sentence)

- 1.Introduce an argument that could be made against yours
- 2.Provide solid examples
- 3.Analyze your examples
- 4.Conclusion sentence reiterating point

Some may argue that the Republican sniper in Liam O'Flaherty's short story "The Sniper" is a more courageous literary character than Rainsford. This, however, is not true. One reason Rainsford is more courageous than the sniper is because Rainsford makes his decisions based on careful thought and logic, while the sniper does not think through situations. The Republican sniper acted recklessly during combat by smoking a cigarette at night, giving away his position. Afterwards, a string of events occurred that led to him eventually shooting and killing, his brother. He acted solely on his fear. Rainsford, on the other hand, thought carefully through each of his predicaments and sought out the best course of events. For example, as General Zaroff chased Rainsford through the jungle, Rainsford set traps to slow Zaroff down, or potentially kill him. Being brave means to remain coolheaded in potentially deadly situations. Rainsford was able to remain calm, while the sniper panicked and acted recklessly. It is for these reasons that Sanger Rainsford is considered the most courageous literary character.