

Writing Body Paragraphs

“Readiness is all.”

(William Shakespeare)

HOW IS THE BODY PARAGRAPH DIFFERENT?

- ▶ Of the three paragraphs--introductory, body and concluding-- the body is probably the most difficult to write.

WHY?



Because . . .

- ▶ This is where you actually have to use reason and logic.
- ▶ In other words, if you don't think before writing, you will more than likely either
 - ▶ repeat yourself
 - ▶ go off topic
 - ▶ or not write enough.
- ▶ *(Errors which more than likely will cause you to fail.)*

As a result,

Writing body paragraphs takes more planning and time than the introductory or concluding paragraph.



Before you write a body paragraph, you need to make sure . . .

- ▶ That you have adequate and specific examples.

or

- ▶ A short story to back up or illustrate your thinking.

and

- ▶ A well organized paragraph, making sure that your ideas are in the right order.



This is the format for the body paragraph which should include about 8 to 10 sentences and be of about 100 words in length.



a. Topic sentence



One sentence



b. Supporting idea



Two sentences



c. Supporting idea



Two sentences



e. Closing sentence



One sentence

Before you begin to write, you must outline, brainstorm or pre-write.

- ▶ All of these terms amount to the same thing. You are gathering and organizing your ideas, so once you begin writing, you will do so with confidence.





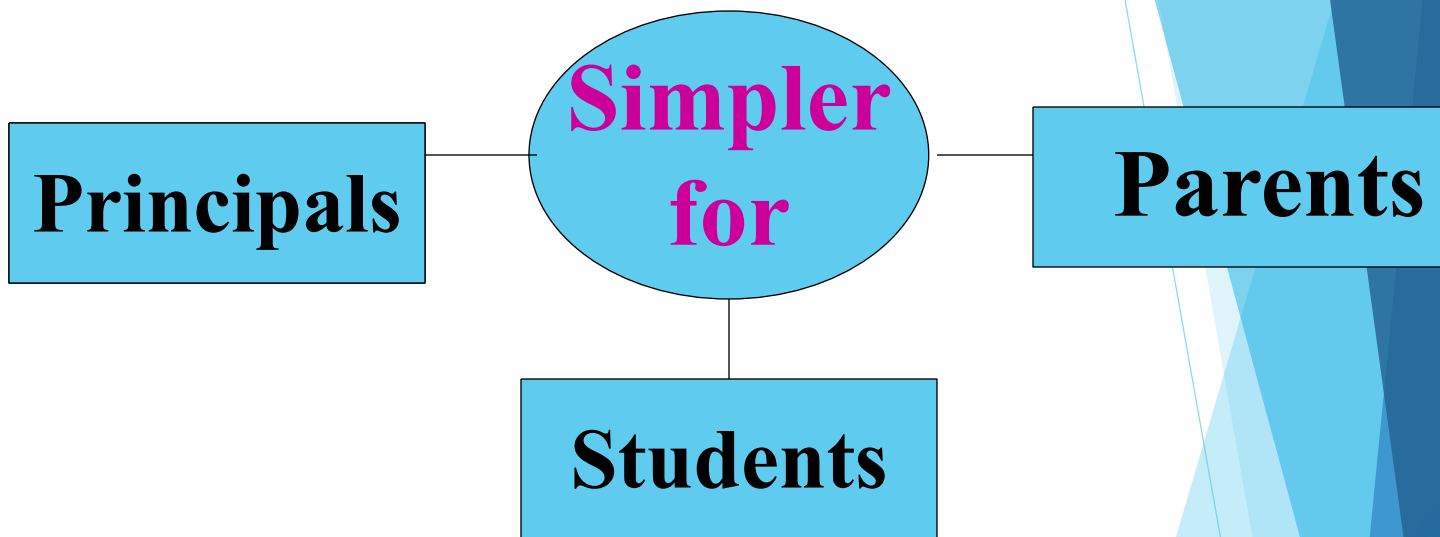
Let's say that the topic is, “ Do you think that all high school students should use uniforms? “

- ▶ We come up with three reasons
 - a. *Wearing uniforms is simpler,*
 - b. Wearing uniforms creates equality,
 - c. Wearing uniforms creates unity

When you are thinking about what to write, you don't want to use a lot of words. You just want to jot down ideas.

Let's work on reason a.

After thinking about, it we come with the following ideas



But how is it simpler for all these groups?

Principals

Principals don't have to waste so much time monitoring student dress.

**Simpler
for**

Students

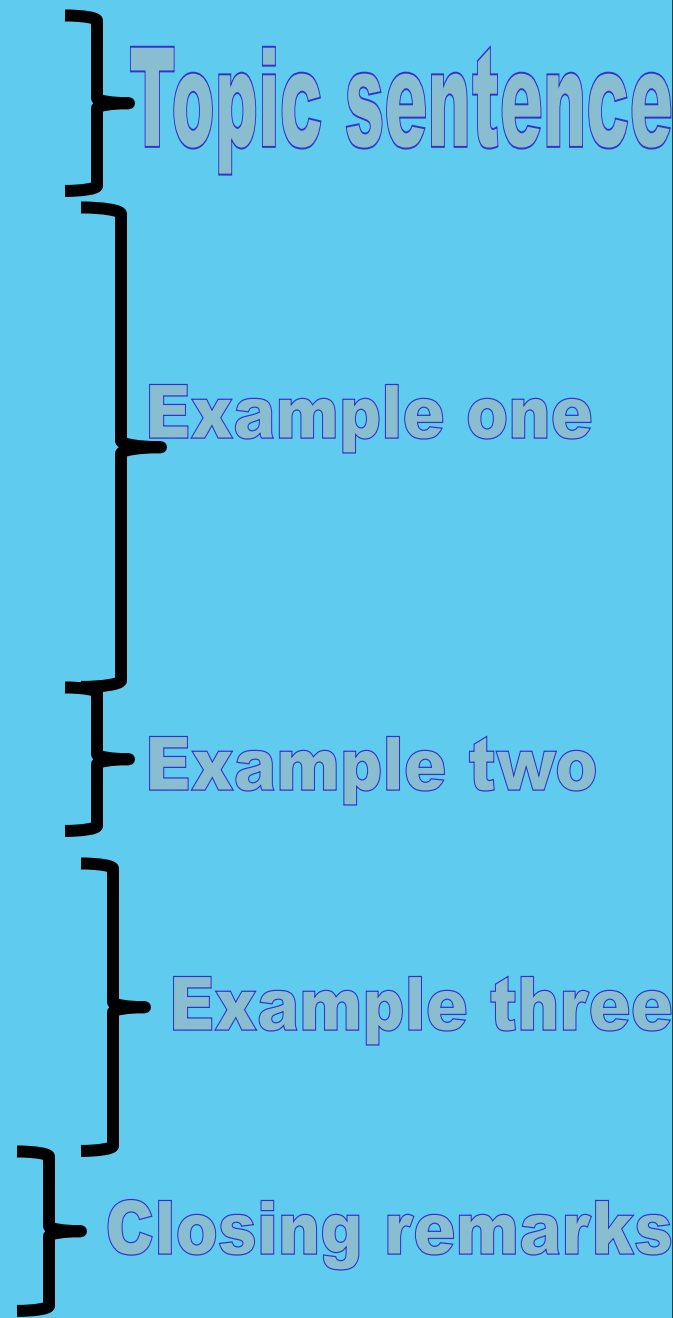
Students don't have to waste time deciding what they are going to wear to school.

Parents

Parents don't have to spend a lot of money or time looking for expensive brand clothing.

*Believe it or not with these few ideas
you can write a good body paragraph.*

First of all, I believe that if all public school children were required to wear uniforms, this would make life much simpler for principals, parents and the students. School administrators would not have to make so many rules about student dress. They would simply monitor that each student wear the required uniform. They would not need to check whether some pants are too baggy or some shirts to long or oversized or whether the shirts have inappropriate art work or phases. This would free up the administrator to do other more important things. In addition, parents would not be burdened by the endless search for name brand clothing. The decisions would be minimal and made quickly. Moreover, students lives would also be simpler in that they would not have to waste so much time deciding what to wear. They would just wear what was required and get on and do more important things. Therefore, if this uniform rule were adopted, everyone involved would have a simpler and





The following are several examples of body paragraphs.



Vehicle telephones should be made illegal because they cause car accidents.

According to US Department of Public Safety 25% of all accidents last year were caused by drivers using cell phones.

Driving requires full concentration.

Talking on the phone distracts the driver, making him slow to react to the emergency situation. Last month, I was riding with a friend when, all of a sudden, her telephone rang. She bent down to reach for the phone. At that moment, the car in front of her slowed down to make a turn. She rear ended the car. This proves how dangerous it is to be engaged in a phone calling while driving.

Example of Body paragraph

Vehicle telephones should not be made illegal because they are very convenient. We use vehicle telephones for emergency situations. For example, in case of an automobile accident, we use vehicle phone to call the police department, an emergency ambulance or friends who can help. Another example pertains to a personal experience. Last week I was driving around town, running errands when the nurse in my son's school called me and informed me about my son's fever. I was able to pick up my son and rush him to the doctor without delay. This proves that vehicle telephones are convenient for emergency situations.

Example of body paragraph

The border patrol agents should not be so harsh with illegal immigrants. The Monitor reported several cases of deaths from drowning. These cases were the results of harsh treatment by the border patrol agents. One death was caused by agents when they were trying to discourage several men on a raft from entering the US territory: the agents lowered their helicopter too close to the illegal immigrant's raft, causing the raft to overturn. In the other case reported, agents illegally detained and deported a Rio Grande man even though he told them that he had documentation. He drowned trying to return to his home. Both these deaths could have been avoided if the border patrol agents had not been so severe in their treatment.

