

Formula for a Research Body Paragraph

Writing is often very similar to a math problem. While putting together a research paper or essay, each paragraph within the body of the work should follow a kind of “formula” that gives specific meaning to its each sentence.

First (and maybe second) Sentence: **TOPIC SENTENCE**

- This sentence should tell the reader what this specific paragraph will be about
- Can be more than one sentence, but no more than two.

Second (and maybe third) sentence: **VERY BRIEF NARRATIVE CONTEXT**

- Assume your topic/subject is unknown to the reader reading your paper
- Include a one-two sentence explaining/expanding upon the who/what/why this particular topic is being discussed.

Third Sentence: **Quotation**

- **INTRODUCE** quotation.
 - NEVER place a quotation into a paragraph without an introduction!
 - **Examples of ways to introduce quotation** (there are multiple ways; these are just a few):
 - Beowulf states, “
 - John Smith, writer for the magazine *Pocahontas*, declared, “
 - Taylor Swift once said, “
- Next, insert the quotation itself.
 - The quotation should be meaty, meaning it should add significance to your paper.
 - A quotation is NOT something that furthers the plot of your paper, but is rather evidence of the claim you are making in your paragraph.
 - A quote needs to say something you cannot say. If it doesn't, DO NOT use that quote in your paper.

Fourth and fifth (and maybe sixth or more) Sentence: **Analyze**

- Explain the significance about this quote to your paper
 - Keep in mind the phrasing “so what?” after inserting your quote.
 - What is the specific meaning behind this quote in regards to your topic?
 - Why should the reader care about the quote?
 - Why is it important?
 - What does the reader need to pay close attention to from the quote itself?

Concluding or transition sentence:

- If concluding: **Summary**
 - Provide a brief, overall summary of the topic/subject discussed and what should be remembered most from this particular paragraph.
- If transitioning: **Connect the dots**
 - Provide a short, specific connection between the topic/subject discussed in this paragraph, with the topic/subject that will be discussed in the next paragraph.

Make sure each paragraph goes in a logical, sequential order. For example, you cannot discuss the fall of the Roman Empire without first discussing how to come into power