

## Topic Sentences in Body Paragraphs

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#### What is a body paragraph?

An essay can be broken down into three main parts: introduction, body, and conclusion. If we consider a five-paragraph essay, the structure would look like this:

- I. Introduction
- II. Body
  1. First body paragraph
  2. Second body paragraph
  3. Third body paragraph
- III. Conclusion

The introduction includes the thesis statement, which sets forth the argument of the essay. The three body paragraphs support and argue the thesis statement, and then the conclusion sums things up.

Within this structure of an essay, the body paragraphs play a crucial role in the development of the argument presented by the thesis statement. We use the body paragraphs to present each of our main points in support of the thesis. In this way, the **body paragraphs are the building blocks** of an essay; they are **used to build a solid argument**, which is set forth in the thesis statement of the essay.

#### What is the topic sentence of a body paragraph?

A topic sentence is usually the first sentence of a body paragraph. It states the main point and lets the reader know what to expect in the rest of the paragraph. Essentially, a topic sentence is like a thesis statement, but just for the body paragraph. The topic sentence should give enough information to allow the reader to know what will be discussed in the paragraph. It should also connect back to the previous paragraph and support the thesis statement.

Each body paragraph in an essay should focus on one main idea, which should be expressed clearly in the **topic sentence** of the paragraph. The rest of the paragraph is then used to provide the supporting details (examples, facts, reasoning, etc.) of what is stated in the topic sentence.

A strong topic sentence will usually complete several tasks at once, including:

- Provide a link or transition from the previous paragraph;
- Introduce the main point of the paragraph;
- Connect to and support the thesis statement.
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## Example

Consider this **thesis statement**: Fall is the best season of the year because the weather is perfect, the colors of the changing leaves are beautiful, and there are some great holidays to celebrate with family.

From this thesis statement, we know that the three body paragraphs would focus on the reasons that fall is the best season:

Topic sentence ideas from the thesis	Sample topic sentences that could be used for the start of each body paragraph
The weather is perfect.	In fall, the heat and humidity of summer is replaced by more comfortable and enjoyable temperatures.
The colors of the changing leaves are beautiful.	In addition to the great weather, fall delivers a magnificent display of nature with the changing colors of leaves.
There are great holidays to celebrate with family.	Along with the cooler weather and autumnal colors, there are some great holidays to enjoy with family in the fall.
Each of these topic sentences relates back to the thesis statement, tells the reader what the main idea of the paragraph will be, and provides a transition between the paragraphs.	