Peas Are Good for You: The PEAS Model for Body Paragraphs

The **P**oint **E**vidence **A**nalysis **S**o what (PEAS) model for body paragraphs asks you to include four parts in each body paragraph. These parts help readers follow your analysis. The parts are described below.

P = Point

Each paragraph should begin with a clear topic sentence stating the point that paragraph seeks to make. Your point should be a claim, something that needs to be supported or illustrated with evidence. The point should be *your* idea, not an idea from another source. If you need to cite your first sentence, it is not your point.

E = Evidence

Once you state the point the paragraph intends to make, provide evidence to support that point. That evidence can take a variety of forms: examples, descriptions, quotations, paraphrases, statistics, anecdotes, etc. The amount of evidence you include will depend upon the point you make. Remember to introduce and cite any evidence you bring in from outside sources.

A = Analysis

For each piece of evidence you need to explicitly explain what you want your audience to notice about it. Help them see what you see. Fully explain a couple pieces of evidence rather than list many pieces of evidence. After you provide and explain your evidence, you need to connect it to your thesis. Explicitly show how it supports your larger claim for the paper. This is where you share your insights about the evidence you have selected.

S = So what

Once you have shown how the evidence supports your thesis, explore the implications of this evidence. Tell your audience why it is important to know what your analysis has revealed. Let the audience know the significance of your ideas.

Tips

- One paragraph might have multiple "E"s and "A"s. That's fine. But each paragraph should be centered on one "P."
- After the first body paragraph, use a transition at the beginning of each paragraph to signal for your readers that you have moved to a new point. Doing so helps your readers see connections between the ideas you address.
- Body paragraphs need not be a particular length, but they need to be long enough to include all of the above components (8-10 sentences is an approximate length to shoot for). If your paragraphs are much shorter, you are likely missing one of the above elements. Label where each of the PEAS occurs in the paragraph to see what is missing. If your paragraphs are significantly longer, you might be including too many ideas in one paragraph. If you have multiple PEAS in one paragraph, split them up into separate paragraphs.