

Body Paragraphs & Transitions



Important Things to Know about Body Paragraphs

- Support thesis statement
- Provide main ideas/examples to prove your argument at hand
- Each paragraph is 7-10 sentences in length
- Paragraphs/ideas are connected by transitions



Parts of a Body Paragraph

- **TOPIC SENTENCE:** States the main idea of the paragraph. It tells the reader what the paragraph will be about. A good topic sentence does two things:
 1. It names a subject
 2. It give the focus or main point

Ex: **Subject:** Gnome-napping **Main Focus:** is morally wrong
Ex: **Subject:** Greek Gods **Main Focus:** Hades
- **SUPPORTING DETAILS:** Sentences that are connected to the main idea. They include information or details the reader needs in order to understand the topic. Sentences should be ordered in the best possible order. The main ways to do this are either by time, location or importance.
- **CLOSING STATEMENT:** Sums up the paragraph's message. It reminds the readers of the topic. Along with the topic sentence of the next paragraph, the closing statement helps connect paragraphs/thoughts.

Topic Sentence

Supporting Details

Because of his dark and morbid personality, Hades was not especially liked by either the gods or the mortals. **Feared and loathed, Hades embodied the inevitable finality of death: The *Iliad* asks, "Why do we loathe Hades more than any god, if not because he is so adamant and unyielding?" (ix). He was not, however, an evil god. Although he was stern, cruel, and unyielding, he was still just in his decisions.** Hades ruled the Underworld and was therefore most often associated with death and feared by men, but he was not Death itself — the actual embodiment of Death was Thanatos.



Closing Statement



Think of a good topic sentence for this set of details.

- Students should work in moderation.
- Students should avoid concentrating on a single project for an extended period.
- For example, if students have to read two books for a midterm history test, they should do other assignments at intervals so that the two books will not get boring.
- Students should regulate how many extracurricular projects to take on.

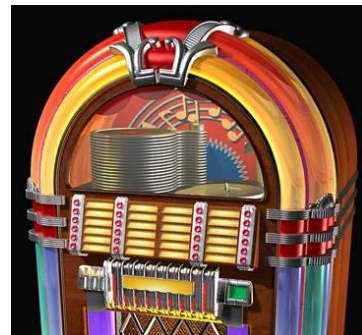
An example topic sentence might be “Student burnout is a potential problem for hardworking students to fight.”

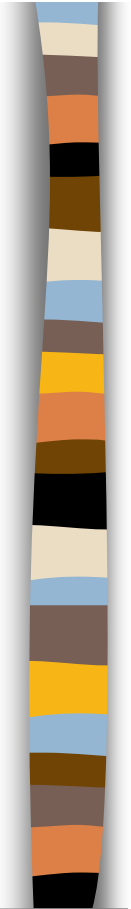


Paragraph Details

- Topic Sentence:
Music downloading has increased over the last decade, but the most popular genre of music to download has become pop.

What are some details you would expect to see in this paragraph?





What is a suitable closing statement for this paragraph?

After looking for one month to find a suitable apartment, I finally found the apartment where we have been living. It includes a living room, three bedrooms, and a kitchen. Probably the living room is my favorite room of all because we often gather together there after we come home from work or school. Entering the living room from the front door, there is a new piano in the corner, with a vase of colorful flowers on it. In the opposite corner stands a Sony television. Next, there is a sofa next to the piano, a loveseat beside the TV, and also a low table between them. On one of the light blue walls is a tranquil picture of the sea. The large window is shaded by a light colored curtain, giving the room a soft, bright feeling. A ceiling fan with small lights is hanging from the ceiling; whenever the fan and lights are on, we can see dangling images, which are reflected from the furniture in the room.



Which statements support this topic sentence?

Topic sentence: Public attention has focused on the safety of children's toys.

- a. Most tricycles now have handle bars covered with plastic protectors.
- b. Shooting marbles is a favorite childhood game.
- c. Too many toys for toddlers come with very small pieces, which can be put in the mouth and can cause choking.
- d. Manufacturers must use nontoxic paints on all toys.
- e. Toys with sharp edges that might cut or scratch should be recalled.
- f. Children enjoy playing with the toys they see on television.



Signal/Transition Words

- For examples: For example, for instance, to illustrate
- For organization or chronological order: The six steps are..., next, finally first, secondly, third
- For additional points: Furthermore, in addition, also, moreover
- For opposing ideas: On the other hand, in contrast, although, however
- For similar ideas: Likewise, similarly, in comparison
- For exceptions: However, nevertheless, but, yet, still
- For emphasis: Above all, finally, more importantly
- For understanding: In other words, in essence, briefly
- For summarizing: In conclusion, to sum up, for these reasons, in a nutshell
- **For more, see the transition grammar card!**



Which transition word works best in the following sentences?

1. _____ the president promised not to raise taxes, I think that he will probably raise them this year.
2. _____ my interest in the law, I want to be a lawyer.
3. Taiwan's president is pro-China. _____, there are now direct flights to China.
4. There are now direct flights to China. _____, it is much more convenient to travel.
5. _____ the price of gas, I will still drive my car to work every day.
6. My cat ate some poison. _____, he got sick and died.
7. _____ the poison, he got sick and died.