

# FROM PARAGRAPH TO PAPER: answer key

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## TASK 1: COMPLETE A SIMPLE OUTLINE

Exercise from: Academic Writing: from paragraph to essay, Dorothy E Zemach & Lisa A Rumisek, Macmillan (Chapter 9, p.67)

### Answers

- I. Practicing yoga regularly can be good for your mind, your body, and your emotions.
- II. Mental benefits
  - A. Develops clear thinking
  - B. Improves concentration
- III. Physical benefits
  - A. Makes you strong and flexible
  - B. Improves blood circulation
  - C. Improves digestion
- IV. Emotional benefits
  - A. Develops self-confidence
  - B. Reduces fear, anger, and worry
  - C. Helps you feel calm and peaceful
- V. Therefore, to build mental, physical, and emotional health, consider practicing yoga.

## TASK 2: Read an essay and complete the outline for it.

### INTRODUCTION

THESIS STATEMENT: \_\_African Americans too have both contributed **new words** to English and **changed the meanings** of some existing words. \_\_\_\_\_

#### BODY PARAGRAPH 1 (**new words**)

TOPIC SENTENCE: \_\_African Americans have introduced a number of words to English from languages that they spoke in their native countries. \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORT 1: \_\_\_\_Example: OK (from an African language; now used all over world to mean 'alright')

SUPPORT 2: \_\_\_\_Example: jazz (from African America musicians in New Orleans; exact origin unknown)

#### BODY PARAGRAPH 2 (**changed meanings**)

TOPIC SENTENCE: \_\_The meanings of words sometimes changed over time. \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORT 1: \_\_Example: cool (original meaning; new meanings) \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORT 2: \_\_Example: square (original meaning; new meaning) \_\_\_\_\_

### CONCLUSION

RESTATEMENT OF THESIS: \_\_Existing ethnic groups in the United States, as well as new immigrants, will surely continue to bring new words to English and give fresh meanings to existing words. \_\_\_\_\_

**TASK 3:** Now analyse the structure and organization of the PDF article ‘Making science a desirable career’ and answer the questions below.

## INTRODUCTION

**What is the purpose of the introductory statements?** To describe the current realities of life as a scientist/researcher (or to explain why science as a career has become so unappealing): it is difficult to get on with the business of ‘doing science’ as competition for jobs and funding is fierce, and the efforts/contortions needed to land jobs and funding are exhausting and time consuming.

**What is the thesis statement?** We can fix the problem (of the undesirability of science as a career) but only if we’re willing to make fundamental changes to how science is funded and structured.

## BODY PARAGRAPH 1

**What is the topic sentence?** For decades trainees – graduate students and post-docs – have performed most of the day-to-day work of academic science.

**What kind of support is provided and what is its purpose?** Supporting sentences describe how enthusiastic young scientists may be stuck in trainee roles for decades for lack of funding & tenured positions.

**Is there a concluding sentence? What is its purpose?** CS: ‘As long as academic science is structured the way it is, we don’t really have a choice.’ **Purpose:** the sentence echoes the thesis statement, i.e. that ‘fundamental changes to how science is funded and structured’ need to be made.

## BODY PARAGRAPH 2

**What is the topic sentence?** Some argue that intense competition strengthens science by allowing only the fittest to survive.

**What kind of support is provided and what is its purpose?** Supporting sentences explain why the above point of view is misguided.

**Is there a concluding sentence? What is its purpose?** CS: In short, it is evident that hypercompetition is inconsistent with “affording the prepared mind complete freedom for the exercise of initiative”, which Vannevar Bush, who devised our system of academic research funding in 1940, considered to be “of supreme importance”.

CS refers to strength of supporting points made (In short, it is evident that) and rounds off/consolidates with a quote.

## BODY PARAGRAPH 3

**What is the topic sentence?** So why do students even start down the road to science careers? .

**What kind of support is provided and what is its purpose?** Supporting sentences answer question asked in topic sentence.

**Is there a concluding sentence? What is its purpose?** CS: Every trainee has encountered exceptionally talented students who would have made major contributions but decided to leave science—its uncertain prospects, risk-averse funding, and incentives for distortion and dishonesty—in favor of more practical and lucrative careers.

CS echoes overall theme/thesis that the way science is structured and funded needs radical change (in order to avoid disillusionment and flight of many talented young scientists towards 'practical' careers).

#### **BODY PARAGRAPH 4**

**What is the topic sentence?** To draw the best young minds to research and then keep them here, we need to change how we train scientists and how academic science gets done.

**What kind of support is provided and what is its purpose?** Supporting sentences explain how the above changes can be made.

**Is there a concluding sentence? What is its purpose?** CS: (two-sentence conclusion) Such measures would have useful side effects: encouraging better training and intellectual independence. More important, they would improve young scientists' career prospects.  
CS states what the results would be.

#### **CONCLUSION**

**Is the thesis statement reiterated/echoed in the conclusion?** Yes: "The effort and investment needed to make research careers more attractive will be handsomely repaid in the form of future discoveries."

**What is the purpose of the other sentence(s) in the conclusion?** A call for action: "It is time to address the career instability that turns some of the best talent away from science."