

PARAGRAPH WRITING

The key to a good paragraph is *structure*. The key to good structure is solid *planning*. Use the following method when planning your paragraphs and you will write sophisticated, well-structured paragraphs.

HOW DO I STRUCTURE MY PARAGRAPH?

When planning your paragraph, you'll want structure it in the following way:

Each of your body paragraphs in your essay should be structured in this way.

POINT

What is your main point in this paragraph? This is almost like a topic line, and the rest of the paragraph will back up and explain/prove this point.

EXPLAIN

Then expand on your main point. Give more detail and further explanation here.

EVIDENCE

Then you need to back up your point with evidence: examples, statistics, facts, opinions, or quotations.

LINK

At the end of your paragraph you should link back to the overall topic/title. This can just be in one sentence, but is crucial as it helps the flow of your essay and makes sure you are staying close to the overall topic at hand.

CHECK OUT THIS EXAMPLE...

Essay Topic: Should students have to wear a school uniform?

A typical plan for one paragraph in this essay – following the PEEL method – would look like this (remember, this is a **plan**, it doesn't have to be in full sentences, neat or wonderfully written at this stage):

POINT: School uniforms help create a sense of unity amongst students.

EXPLAIN: - They limit competition amongst students.
- Students can identify each other in a crowd.
- When you all look the same, you feel a common sense of meaning purpose.

EVIDENCE: 70% of students said they would like a school uniform.
- Quote from class president Betty: "I would definitely feel *unified* in a uniform."
- Research from Harvard on this issue.

LINK: An argument for school uniforms would be that as uniforms can clearly *unite* students, thus they should be considered.

Once every paragraph has been planned like this, writing the essay is easy as it is just a matter of putting your plan into full (and brilliant) sentences.

TRANSITION WORDS + PHRASES

To make your paragraph cohesive and fluent, you need to use transition words and phrases to link the sentences in your paragraph.

Particularly
Most notably
Indeed
Above all
Predominantly
Chiefly
Essentially

Specifically
Unless
But
However
Although
Except
Excluding

Furthermore
Whereas
Alternatively
Unlike
In the same way
Therefore
First of all

To begin with
Also
In addition
Moreover
Notably
For example
Undoubtedly

In summary
To conclude
As a result
Therefore
So / because
Consequently
Since

Accordingly
One reason
Hence
Thus
In this way
Subsequently
Most of all

Especially
Nonetheless
Conversely
Finally
Firstly / Secondly
On the one hand
On the other hand