



# The Essay: Writing Body Paragraphs

**The body of your essay usually consists of two or three paragraphs in which you present your arguments that are based on your research.**

The body of your essay will consist of two things:

**Evidence:** the facts you have to support your argument. This is usually in the form of historical examples, statistics or quotations. In a research essay, you will need to cite or credit the sources of your information.

**Analysis:** your explanation of how the evidence you presented proves your point.

Here is a simple way of putting it: the evidence is the “What” and the analysis is the “So what.”

A good way to prepare to write your body paragraphs is by using a template like the one below. It will help you to organize your thoughts and allow you to focus on your evidence. Make a copy for yourself and fill it in according to the tips below. You should make a new template for each paragraph you write.

## Body Paragraph Template

Topic Sentence	The topic sentence is like the steering wheel of your paragraph, it controls the direction your argument will take. It will start your paragraph in a clear and concise way. It should relate back to your thesis and be written as an argument, not as a statement of fact. The topic sentence will state the main idea that you plan to argue in the paragraph.
Evidence and Examples	Use examples drawn from your research to help prove your point. This could be a quotation, a specific event that occurred or perhaps a piece of legislation (or a law). Remember to appropriately cite your sources so that your teacher knows where you got your information.
Analysis	This is where your own voice in the essay comes through. You explain how your evidence proves your point. If you are stuck, imagine how you would explain your point to someone you were sitting with in a coffee shop.