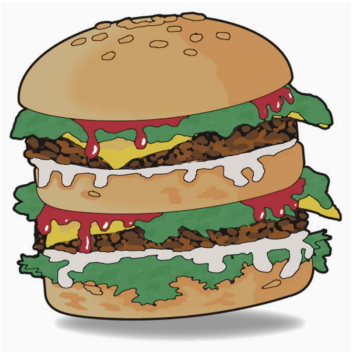
How to Build a Body Paragraph

Please remember that this is a template. It is a good STARTING place. As with any template, you must learn to make it your own and adapt it.

1	Topic Sentence
2	Introduce the context for quote 1
3	Quotation 1 with citation
4	Explain quotation 1
5	Introduce the context for quote 2
6	Quotation 2 with citation
7	Explain quotation 2
8	Concluding sentence





The sample paragraph below is the first body paragraph following this thesis:

- In *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, Goldilocks represents humanity's selfishness and the common difficulty people have in apologizing for their mistakes.

1	Topic Sentence	According to the story, human nature is driven by egotism, represented by Goldilocks' disrespect towards the bears.
2	Introduce the context for quote 1	When Goldilocks enters the house, she immediately eats the porridge she finds on the table.
3	Quotation 1 with citation	The narrator writes, "At the table in the kitchen, there were three bowls of porridge. Goldilocks was hungry. She tasted the porridge from the first bowl" (1).
4	Explain quotation 1	Without even looking around or asking to come in, Goldilocks takes the food from their table, which shows how self-centered she is.
5	Introduce the context for quote 2	This continues as Goldilocks moves throughout the bears' house.
6	Quotation 2 with citation	By the time she gets to the chairs, the narrator writes, "But just as she settled down into the chair to rest, it broke into pieces! Goldilocks was very tired by this time, so she went upstairs to the bedroom" (4).
7	Explain quotation 2	Instead of trying to fix the chair or showing that she feels guilty for breaking it, Goldilocks leaves it and follows her own selfish desire to take a nap.
8	Concluding sentence	In every part of the story, Goldilocks shows that she is only thinking about herself and has no concern for other people.

Here is what the body paragraph looks like when it is written in paragraph form:

According to the story, human nature is driven by egotism, represented by Goldilocks' disrespect towards the bears. When Goldilocks enters the house, she immediately eats the porridge she finds on the table. The narrator writes, "At the table in the kitchen, there were three bowls of porridge. Goldilocks was hungry. She tasted the porridge from the first bowl" (1). Without even looking around or asking to come in, Goldilocks takes the food from their table. This continues as Goldilocks moves throughout the bears' house. By the time she gets to the chairs, the narrator writes, "But just as she settled down into the chair to rest, it broke into pieces! Goldilocks was very tired by this time, so she went upstairs to the bedroom" (4). Instead of trying to fix the chair or showing that she feels guilty for breaking it, Goldilocks leaves it and follows her own selfish desire to take a nap. In every part of the story, Goldilocks shows that she is only thinking about herself and has no concern for other people.

LINK: SAMPLE THESIS AND TOPIC SENTENCES