

Structuring Effective Body Paragraphs

Overview: We are going to practice writing effective body paragraphs with structure. To do this, you will use the outline below, and then write a body paragraph or two that uses the information in the outline. Remember some of the things that make for a good body paragraphs and be sure to use them in your own.

Resources: If you need a refresher or some ideas to help you write a body paragraph, check out the resources below. Remember that these are just guidelines. They might say you *have* to do something, but it’s your writing. You have creative control over it.

- [How to Write a Body Paragraph for a Research Paper](#)
- [Paragraph Structure](#) (Helpful for starting your paragraph and giving it focus)
- [Paragraph Structure](#) (Helpful overview of the whole structure)
- [How to Write a Good Paragraph](#) (Helpful in connecting the ideas within your paragraph)

Outline:

- **Claim:** School should start later.
 - **Introduction:**
 - It’s dark outside, and you can barely keep your eyes open. Your brain has barely started working, and your teacher is up at the front of the room trying to teach you something. As hard as you try, you just can’t focus. Now, why would we do this to students? Instead, what if we started school at 9:00 instead of the current time of 7:50? This would help students be healthier and actually learn more, especially in their morning classes..
 - **Body Paragraph 1:**
 - Topic: Improve student health
 - Possible Evidence: ([Source: CDC - Schools Start Too Early](#))
 - “Not getting enough sleep is common among high school students and is associated with several health risks including being overweight, drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco, and using drugs, as well as poor academic performance”
 - “teenagers aged 13 to 18 years should regularly sleep 8 to 10 hours per day for good health”
 - “adolescents become sleepy later at night and need to sleep later in the morning as a result in shifts in biological rhythms”
 - **Body Paragraph 2:**
 - Topic: Improve student learning
 - Possible Evidence: (Source: [Teens get more sleep, show improved grades and attendance with later school start time, researchers find](#))
 - “Final grades were 4.5 percent higher for students who took the class after school start times were pushed back compared with students who took the class when school started earlier.”
 - “The number of tardies and first-period absences at Franklin dropped”

YOUR TURN! TIME TO WRITE THE BODY PARAGRAPH(S).

Using the outline above, write an introduction that you could use to launch this piece of writing. Remember the key elements of an introduction, and be creative with this.

YOUR BODY PARAGRAPH(S): Write your own body paragraph(s) in the red box below.					
Progression	Insufficient	Beginning	Developing	Applying	Extending
I can clearly structure a body paragraph.	I don’t have enough done to demonstrate understanding yet.	I can clearly identify the topic of the paragraph using a topic sentence or another method.	I can provide evidence that connects to and supports my main idea.	I can elaborate on my evidence in a way helps clarify the significance of the evidence.	I can wrap up my paragraph with a conclusion that helps emphasize my main point or connect back to my claim/thesis.