

### *Goals of a body paragraph*

- Give evidence that backs up your thesis statement (your view on the nature vs nurture question).
- Explain how your evidence is meaningful and relevant to your argument in the witness statement.

### *Common problems with your body paragraphs*

- All biography – no connection to argument made in your thesis statement.
- Analysis was lacking – reader was left to guess why your evidence backed up your thesis statement.
  - MUST end your analysis with the claim made in your thesis.
- Just because your upbringing influences you doesn't mean that you are a nurture witness. Upbringing plays a role in the nature argument too.
- Evidence argues for nature, but you are trying to argue the nurture side.
- Irrelevant facts included in body paragraphs – facts don't support your argument.
- Topic sentences missing and/or irrelevant.
  - Must tie to the main idea of the paragraph and your nature/nurture argument.

### Nurture Body Paragraphs

**Nurture BP #1:** The wicked creature, Gollum, who is forced to guide Frodo to Mordor, was once a peaceful Hobbit, like the protagonist. But after murdering his best friend for the Ring of Power, and coveting it in hiding for years, he became morally and physically corrupted. He became aggressive, selfish, and violent towards others, and developed a split personality. Part of him loves the “precious” (the Ring), and the other part hates it, because it has caused him so much suffering. Although Gollum became wicked beyond repair, his old good-natured self does occasionally shine through. In the Hobbit, Gollum plays a game with Bilbo (Frodo's uncle), exchanging riddles from his past (Kocher 64). Gollum, an evil and selfish creature, was once a peaceful Hobbit and only became evil by corruption of the Ring, proving that humans are naturally good and become corrupted by external forces.

**Nurture BP #2:** I am very strongly religious and I base a lot of my thoughts on my religion, because I think they are correct. Therefore humans are born good. I entered my Anglican

priesthood in 1960, and I became the bishop for South Africa in 1985 but I decided I needed to devote all of my time to the TRC trials, so I gave up my position of bishop, although I am still active in the church ("Forging Equality in South Africa"). I stick to the beliefs of the Anglican church and the thirty-nine articles which is the summary of the beliefs of the church of England, written in 1563 after being revised from the former forty-two articles made in 1553 (Booty). In the thirty-nine articles it states that humans were created good, in God's image and after God's likeness ("Anglican Human Nature and the Purpose of Existence"). In my sermons I have said that humans are fundamentally good. And I think that the aberration, in fact, is the evil one, for God created us ultimately for God, for goodness, for laughter, for joy, for compassion, for caring ("Desmond Tutu Quote"). Since humans are born good, Golding should be found guilty for his negative statements about human nature.

**Nurture BP #3:** At a young age, my mother was unable to support me, so she left me in the care of my uncle Khayrallah Tulfah, an educated army officer (Steffoff 21). This uncle corrupted me, showing that society causes evil in people. In 1941, my uncle was sentenced to prison for taking part of a military uprising. With no place to go, I had to return to the care of my mother. My mother had married a man named Ibrahim Hassan, who was cruel and illiterate( Steffoff 21). Ibrahim refused to let me go to school, and had beaten and insulted me. He would awake me before dawn and force me to tend to the sheep. He also forced me to steal chickens and sheep as well (Steffoff 21-22). I was constantly laughed at and regarded as a thief and fatherless boy. Here I learned a valuable lesson that I kept for the rest of my life. Once I began to carry a heavy iron bar to defend myself, until then did people stop their abuse. I learned that if I am not one who intimidates, I will be regarded as a coward or killed. Through my abusive childhood did I learn the severity of the society I live in, and the actions I needed to take in order to survive. It's become the world where I need to take a stand regardless of how people feel, or I will suffer severe consequences. Had I not been forced into that abusive childhood, I wouldn't have become the person that I am showing that society corrupts humans.

Nature Body Paragraphs

**Nature BP #1:** Another event involves my father after we had separated my mother and sister and we had been at the camps for about a week. We were in Auschwitz at this point and my father had asked the gypsy who was in charge where the toilets were and instead of saying anything the gypsy just slapped my father. “I just stood there petrified. What had happened to me? My father has just been struck in front of me, and I had not even blinked. I had watched and kept silent. Only yesterday, I would have dug my nails into this criminal’s flesh. Had I changed that much? So fast? Remorse began to gnaw at me. All I could think was: I shall never forgive them for this. My father must have guessed what my thoughts because he whispered in my ear: “It doesn’t hurt.” (Weisel 39) This shows that I was being selfish by not helping or sticking up for my father because inside I knew I could get hurt or worse even die if I did. This shows that one way someone could survive would be to think only for themselves because once you thought of helping your neighbor you could be the next one to end up in the crematory. No one taught me to be selfish but instead it was my instincts and my evil side that held me back that day and helped me survive instead of helping my father.

**Nature BP #2:** In 1975, I witnessed murder and cannibalism of an infant chimp (Weiss) which impacted my belief about humans being born evil. I couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw this; it was appalling and was a reoccurring thing for the next two years by a mother and her daughter. People can say that it was because they were in need of food, but chimpanzees do not only eat meat. They could have gone out and searched for fruits, vegetables, and insects. Eating meat was actually another thing that I had discovered (Biographical Timeline, Gombe). This carnivorous presentation was perhaps one of the most violent things that I had ever witnessed. Even though cannibalism isn’t as common to us, murder is. Many people every year kill each other and sometimes without consequence. Why would people kill others if they were not angry or aggressive and in some cases truly evil?

**Nature BP #3:** Shortly after, I left my secret cove and rescued a dead parachuter on the top of a mountain by where our S.O.S. fires were held. This event also impacted my belief that all humans are born evil. This must’ve been the crouching thing they all saw and called 'beast'. I got sick, but I untangled him and left to tell my friends before it's too late. They were doing some

weird ritual-like dance and mimicking their hunt for the boar they had just killed and sacrificed in front of my secret cove. Before they realized that I was there, running into their circle and getting in their way to tell them about the parachuter on the mountain. I think they thought that I was the beast, because they didn't look close enough or something along those lines. But before they stopped to think, they jumped on me and stabbed at me with their spears, grabbed at me and bit and tore with their teeth. Then some of them started snarling at me and they threw me off the side of the cliff and into the ocean. As I fell, they all came crowding to the edge to see what they had just done. Only then did they seem to realize they did not defeat the 'beast', but instead, they killed their friend. (Golding 139) In excitement, a little spark went off to ignite the evil in them showing that in fact the boys on the island were born evil.