

# Body Paragraphs must include:

## **Topic Sentence**

(Introduce what paragraph will be about/point of support)

+

## **Evidence #1**

(introduced and explained)

+

## **Reasoning #1**

(how your point of support & evidence supports/proves the claim)

+

## **Evidence #2**

(introduced and explained)

+

## **Reasoning #2**

(how your point of support & evidence supports/proves the claim)

# Drafting a strong topic sentence

---

Example: Is lying ever justified

# Topic sentence

Begin with a topic sentence that reflects the claim and introduces the evidence you will be discussing in the paragraph.

A bare bones topic sentence merely answers the question (“Is lying ever justified?”):

*Lying is never justified. (2)*

A topic sentence that includes the reason from your claim is a bit of an improvement:

*Lying is never justified because it is harmful. (3)*

# Topic sentence

To take it to the next level, a topic sentence includes the reason in the claim, provides additional context and explanation, and uses more sophisticated language.

*Lying hurts those being lied to as well as those who are lying; therefore, it can never be justified. (4)*