

Writing a Body Paragraph

The purpose of the BODY PARAGRAPH is to:

- Explain your topic
- Support your thesis statement with additional facts, statistics, opinions, or personal experiences

Part 1: Topic Sentence

A **topic sentence** states the main idea of your paragraph. It is usually (but not always) the first sentence.

Read this body paragraph. What sentence shows the main idea? Underline it.

One popular style of music is reggae. Reggae started in Jamaica in the 1960s. A few Jamaican musicians began to experiment with new types of music, and they started a new style called reggae. Artists like Bob Marley have made reggae popular around the world. Reggae has also influenced many other styles of popular music, such as punk, rock, and hip hop.

Part 2: Supporting Details

Supporting details add information about your **topic sentence**. A **supporting detail** can be a fact, statistic, opinion, example, or a personal story. Most body paragraphs have 2-3 supporting details.

Read the paragraph again. Underline the supporting details.

One popular style of music is reggae. Reggae started in Jamaica in the 1960s. A few Jamaican musicians began to experiment with new types of music, and they started a new style called reggae. Artists like Bob Marley have made reggae popular around the world. Reggae has also influenced many other styles of popular music, such as punk, rock, and hip hop.

Part 3: Write your own body paragraph

Below you will find the introduction and conclusion paragraphs of a 3 paragraph essay. YOU will write the body paragraph to this essay. Your body paragraph should be about 5 sentences long.

The THESIS is underlined. Read the thesis. What is the body paragraph going to be about?

How I Learned to be a Successful Student

Do you have trouble working and being a college student? I have a solution for you! When I was in English class, I was always paying attention and writing notes, but I never had time to study. I failed every exam in English class. One reason is that I had to work while I took college classes. While I was working, I couldn't study. After I finished working, I was tired. I just went to bed. Fortunately, my friend had a great idea that helped me succeed in English class.

In the end, my friend really helped me. His idea totally changed how I studied and learned. Now, I feel confident in English class. I have no problem passing my English exams, even though I'm still working. It's amazing how one idea can completely change your life.