

Let's Tackle the Essay

Part 5- Outline Format for the Body of the Essay

The body of the essay is made up of paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. Each one of these paragraphs covers one of your categories. The purpose of the body is to fully explain your categories and support them with evidence.

Any time you are writing an essay, the main goal is to communicate YOUR ideas and SUPPORT with evidence. Remember, 2/3 of the essay should be YOUR thinking. Otherwise, the internet pretty much wrote your paper.

We can make this process as easy as PIE! Well, not the kind you eat for dessert... Or the kind you discuss in math class... This PIE will make sure that you have a "formula" to deliver your opinion with just the right dose of support.

What does PIE stand for?

P = Point (the first point you want to make about this category)

I = Illustrate (this is your evidence)

E = Explain (show the connection between the evidence and the point)

Let's talk "Illustrate"

What can you use for evidence in your essay?

Annecdote

Statistic

Interesting fact

Quote

History/background info

Since the evidence comes from an outside source, what must you do?

Cite your source

Hint, hint: List your source on your outline so that you don't forget it. ☺

Example of a piece of PIE

Thesis: If a person chooses to share his/her life with a dog, it is vital that they learn how to take care of it.

(Category One) II. Training

(Point) A. Well behaved

(Illustrate) 1. Only 30% of dogs are well behaved (Chegg.com)

(Explain) a. Not well behaved = high chance dog will be left at home and not get the attention it needs

Now, once you start a piece of PIE, you MUST finish it! There is no P without the I and E. But what if you want to add another piece of evidence. No problem! Just remember to finish that partial piece.

(Category One) II. Training

(Point) A. Well behaved

(Illustrate) 1. Only 30% of dogs are well behaved (chegg.com)

(Explain) a. Not well behaved = high chance dog will be left at home and not get the attention it needs

(Illustrate) 2. Anecdote about dog that was not good in public (doglogicu.com)

(Explain) a. Ended up living in backyard whole life

Make sure to vary up the type of evidence you use. Nothing is more boring than fact after fact!

You can also add a second explain if needed:

(Illustrate) 2. Annecdote about dog that was not good in public (doglogicu.com)

(Explain) a. Ended up living in backyard whole life

(Explain) b. Boredom led to more unwanted behavior

How many pieces of PIE should each body paragraph have?

That depends. It should have as many as you need to FULLY explain your category, but the majority of the time it is between two pieces with multiple illustrates and explains and four pieces. ☺

It's Transitions Time!

Once you have had enough PIE, wrap up your paragraph with a transition. The job of a transition is to connect one category to the next. Think of it as a bridge between the categories.

The best way to start is to figure out what the two categories have in common.

Example:

Category One : Training

Category Two: Nutrition

Link between the two? Both make the dog better

Using the link, create a sentence that DOES NOT include “training” or “nutrition”, but instead, connects the two ideas so that your reader flows from one category right into the next.

Example: Investing time in a dog’s behavior will build their brain, but it is critical to not forget about taking care of the rest of their body.

How to Outline the Body Paragraphs

Make sure to write in fragments ONLY and cite your sources for the illustrates!

II. Topic Sentence (category 1)

A. Point

 1. Illustrate

 a. Explain

B. Point

 1. Illustrate

 a. Explain

C. Point

 1. Illustrate

 a. Explain

D. Transition

How many pieces of PIE does each body paragraph need?

Variations of PIE:

II. Topic Sentence (category 1)

A. Point

 1. Illustrate

 a. Explain

 2. Illustrate

 a. Explain

B. Point

 1. Illustrate

 a. Explain

 b. Explain

C. Point

 1. Illustrate

 a. Explain

D. Transition