

Write Strong Body Paragraphs

Do you wonder how to make a strong body paragraph?

The PIE method can help you to construct paragraphs and understand how to best structure your ideas. What is the PIE method?

Here is PIE in action:

- **Point:**
 - A man is guilty of murder.
- **Information or Illustration:**
 - In the court case exist three crucial elements: a bloodied knife, a prime suspect, and the victim.
- **Explanation:**
 - On the knife, the blood is known to be the victims; furthermore, the knife's handle has fingerprints which match the suspect. Therefore, because the blood on the knife is the victims, and the prints match the suspect, we can conclude that the suspect is guilty.

Point

- The “Point” is the reason your paragraph exists. Your point is a claim, an idea, an argument. Your point should inform the reader what you will be discussing throughout the paragraph. In other words, the point is your “Topic Sentence.” The first line of your body paragraph.

Information or illustration

- The “Information” is the concrete evidence in your essay. Information can have many shapes: direct quote, paraphrase, narrative, etc. Information should be a concrete example, not an abstract concept. The information may come from the primary work you are analyzing, a secondary source providing more insight to your topic, or your own experience as a narrative (if the essay permits).

Explanation

- “Explanation” follows directly after your “Information.” This is where you break down the information that you included in your essay. What did you want the reader to understand from the quote? Remember, a reader does not draw the same conclusions you do, so you need to write it out. Do that here.
- Do not forget to explicitly explain how it relates to your thesis or “point.” The “explanation” is **how** and **why** you find it important for your reader.
Why is your interpretation important?
How is it related to your thesis? This is the most important section of PIE.

Using PIE is an effective way to structure your body paragraphs' examples. Use at least a single sentence for each section. However, that does not mean you only need a single sentence. Use as much “Information” as necessary to explain the “Point” and as much “Explanation” needed to show importance of the “Information.”

“Write forward, reason backward.”

PIE is the breaking down of “information” by “explaining” how it relates directly to your essay's purpose. If you use this structure, you will likely see an improvement in your writing.

Adapted from: <https://purdueglobalwriting.center/paragraph-development-with-pie-2/> and other sources.