

PEAL model of paragraph structure



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P – Point

The first sentence contains the main point of the paragraph and is called the **topic sentence**.

The topic sentence:

- makes it clear what the main idea of the paragraph is.
- takes the reader to the next stage of your argument.

The main points of your argument are outlined in the introduction. Their order should be the same in both the introduction and the body of the essay.

When writing a topic sentence, try using connective or linking words, which can help develop the flow of your writing and build your argument logically.

[Read our guide on linking words and phrases](#)

E – Evidence

Follow your pointing sentence with sentences containing evidence or examples to support your idea.

These sentences:

- refer to evidence from your research.
- support your main idea with facts rather than opinions.
- can be [paraphrased, summarised or directly quoted](#).
- will include in-text citations clearly distinguishing the evidence as belonging to its author.

The sources of your evidence will also need to be included in the reference list at the end of your writing.

A – Analysis

The sentences tell the reader how the evidence or examples provided fit with the argument you are making. This is where you can explain how and why the evidence supports your main idea and subsequently the assignment question.

These sentences should be written in the third person so that your writing remains academic and objective.

L – Link to next paragraph

Providing a linking sentence develops your argument coherently and improves the flow of your writing. The last part of the paragraph is designed to lead into the following paragraph.

[PEAL planning template for essays](#)