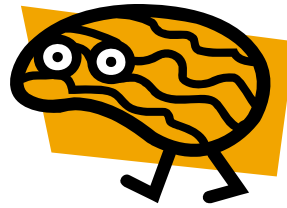


The Body of an Essay



The body of an essay, comprised of several paragraphs, is the “meat” of the essay. It contains support for the thesis in form of facts, reasons, incidents, examples and/or details. Consider the following acronym, FRIED.*

| |
|-------------------|
| F acts |
| R easons |
| I ncidents |
| E xamples |
| D etails |

Each paragraph in the body of the essay contains a topic sentence that directly relates to the thesis statement. You should look at your thesis statements and craft possible topic sentences.

THESIS STATEMENT: An exciting plot, harmonious musical numbers, outstanding staging, and expert acting combined to create a spectacular performance of *Grease* at Debbie’s Dinner Theater.

TOPIC SENTENCES

1. The suspenseful rising action and explosive climax of the plot drove the musical to a perfect finish.
2. The expertise of the orchestra and the vocal qualities of the chorus were a magical combination.
3. The set design and the blocking of the dance numbers were flawless.
4. Judy Brown and Bryan Jackson, who portrayed Sandy and Danny, were epitome of teens in the 1950’s.

Paragraphs in the body of the essay may be developed in several ways; sometimes the methods are combined. The most frequently used organizations are *chronological order*, *cause and effect order*, *order of importance*, *spatial order*, and *comparison-contrast order*. The type of organization depends upon the topic and purpose of the essay.

Regardless of the type of organization, transitional words and phrases must be used within and among paragraphs to provide coherence and “hook” the ideas of the paragraphs together.

- *The acronym FRIED was coined by Dr. Karen Russikoff, a Cal Poly Pomona English professor.*