



body paragraphs

While your introduction and thesis set up the topic and argument/main idea, the body of the paper must **support that argument**.

Example thesis and corresponding body paragraphs

School uniforms should be implemented in all public schools because they are shown to increase grades and attendance, reduce bullying, and improve school spirit, resulting in a better educational environment for all students.

Step-by-step guide

1. Introductory/transition sentence: How is this idea connected to the one that came right before it in the last paragraph? What do both paragraphs have in common? What new angle will this paragraph use to establish your point? Our example paragraph would have to connect the idea of the first body paragraph to the idea of the second.

Example: Wearing school uniforms does not only help students be more mentally and physically present in class; it may even make them happier by reducing bullying.

2. Claim: This is the main ‘gist’ of the paragraph. It should concisely state a reason why your thesis is a strong argument by briefly summarizing evidence.

Example: Requiring uniforms can make it harder for students to identify and mock disparities in wealth and differences in culture.

3. Concept/evidence: This comes from research! Who did a study about this? What did they find? What statistics support your opinion?

Example: In a study conducted in California high schools in 2019, researchers found that students from schools requiring uniforms expressed less anxiety about “being mocked, excluded, or rejected from friend groups” than those from schools that did not require uniforms (Pew Research Center).

Explanation of evidence: Rephrase the evidence. Why does it matter? What should people be picturing in their heads when they read the statistic/experiment/real-life example of your point?

Example: Without easy visual markers like brand names and trending styles, students feel stronger commonality with classmates and are less likely to exclude or ostracize those who don't fit in.

Now, combine all of these!

Wearing school uniforms does not only help students be more mentally and physically present in class; it may even make them happier by reducing bullying. Research suggests that requiring uniforms can make it harder for students to identify and mock disparities in wealth and differences in culture. In a study conducted in California high schools in 2019, Pew Research Center found that students from schools requiring uniforms expressed less anxiety about "being mocked, excluded, or rejected from friend groups" than those from schools that did not require uniforms (Pew Research Center). Without easy visual markers like brand names and trending styles, students feel stronger commonality with classmates and are less likely to exclude or ostracize those who don't fit in.