

M.E.A.L. Paragraph

MAIN IDEA. EVIDENCE. ANALYSIS. LINK.

Without each of these things, your audience will probably be unsatisfied with the paragraph you've served them. Preparing a MEAL always requires you to think of the people seated at your literary table, your audience

1. MAIN IDEA / THE BUN

The main idea should be included in the topic sentence. This is the idea that unifies the paragraph's content.

2. EVIDENCE / THE BASICS

Present evidence that supports your main idea above by summarizing, paraphrasing, or quoting an outside source.

3. ANALYSIS / THE MEAT

The analysis shows how or why the evidence you've given supports the main idea and offers an interpretation or importance of evidence.

4. LINK / ANOTHER BUN

Link with a sentence that re-states the main idea, or link the main idea of the paragraph to the thesis.

Example

- 1. Main Idea** (1) When it comes to furthering the user experience, Apple exceeds expectations by modernizing their products in order to meet the needs of consumers.
- 2. Evidence** (2) In 1976, Apple's Macintosh computer became the first commercially successful computer to use a graphical user interface (GUI) based on a mouse (Smith 2011).
- 3. Analysis** (3) The GUI and mouse made computers much easier to use compared to earlier computers which required users to know programming.
- 4. Link** (4) By focusing on the user experience, Apple has become one of the most successful and valuable companies in the world.

Adapted from:

Lee, T. B. (2015, September 9). *How Apple became the world's most valuable company*.

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