

PIE/TEA Paragraphs

What is a POINT/TOPIC sentence?

Topic sentences usually begin the paragraph, and they express the main point of the paragraph. Because the topic sentences must encompass all of the sentences of the paragraph and unify them around one, central idea, this sentence will usually be the most general and inclusive sentence. It will usually be an idea that can be further developed, so it must go beyond simply stating an obvious idea or piece of information or analysis.

What is INFORMATION/EVIDENCE?

Information may include a variety of different types of support. These types include reasons, examples, facts/data, testimony (direct/indirect quotes), and personal observations. A rich, well-developed paragraph may include a combination of different types of support. For example, a writer may begin with a personal observation/experience as an example of the main point, then provide a quote from one of the texts to show how this experience fits with the ideas represented by the author.

What is EXPLANATION/ANALYSIS?

Because your main point is informed by your critical reading and thinking about text, your job as a writer is to then explain this analysis to your reader. In other words, you must make your interpretation of the information explicit to the reader by showing how the information relates to your main idea.

If your paragraphs lack any of the above elements, you may encounter the following problems in your writing

1) No POINT/TOPIC SENTENCE: This can lead to a lack of CLARITY. Your reader may not quite understand what idea you're trying to prove or how the information/evidence you provide relates to the overall thesis. Without a POINT to prove, you will also have a hard time developing meaningful, original ANALYSIS, which makes your writing unique.

2) No INFORMATION/EVIDENCE: This can lead to a lack of CREDIBILITY. If you're trying to prove an idea, but you don't have any concrete examples or textual support, then your reader will wonder why you're making the claims you're making. Your reader will likely distrust your perspective because your writing does not appear to have substantial PROOF that supports the overall statement.

3) No EXPLANATION/ANALYSIS: A paragraph without analysis or explanation of HOW the evidence connects to your point will seem somewhat incomplete. It will leave the reader asking, "so what?" The reader might read your INFORMATION/ANALYSIS and question the relevance of this support and he/she may not understand how exactly this connects with your main idea. A paragraph with no analysis runs the risk of being a random collection of facts and examples, leaving the reader to make his/her own interpretation and therefore taking the focus away from YOUR point.

PIE/TEA Paragraph Scoring Rubric

	3	2	1
Point/Topic	Exceptional topic sentence that expresses the main point of the paragraph and restates the question/prompt.	Effective topic sentence that expresses the main point of the paragraph and restates the question/prompt.	Limited topic sentence that does not express the main point of the paragraph or does not restate the question/prompt.
Information/Evidence	Includes exceptional examples of evidence (facts, quotes, observations) that strongly supports the topic sentence.	Includes effective examples of evidence (facts, quotes, observations) that adequately supports the topic sentence.	Includes limited examples of evidence (facts, quotes, observations) that somewhat supports the topic sentence.
Explanation/Analysis	Analysis exceptionally explains how the evidence supports the topic sentence.	Analysis effectively explains how the evidence supports the topic sentence.	Analysis is limited in explaining how the evidence supports the topic sentence.