PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE TEMPLATE

PEEL Method for Body Paragraphs

THE PEEL METHOD

P = Point (Topic sentence)
E = Evidence (Quote or example from book)
E = Explanation (Analyze what it means)
L = Link (Connect back to thesis)

BLANK TEMPLATE (Copy for Each Paragraph)

Paragraph #____

P - POINT (Topic Sentence):

State your claim clearly:

_____

_____

E - EVIDENCE (Quote or Example):

Quote from book or specific scene (include page number):

"_____

_____

_____" (Page _____)

E - EXPLANATION (Analysis):

Explain what this evidence shows or proves:

_____

L - LINK (Connection to Thesis):

Connect this point back to your main argument:

_____

_____

_____

EXAMPLE: Filled PEEL Paragraph

Book: Charlotte's Web

P - POINT:
Charlotte's sacrifice demonstrates true friendship's selfless nature.

E - EVIDENCE:
"After all, what's a life, anyway? We're born, we live a little while, we die" (White, 164).

E - EXPLANATION:
Charlotte accepts her mortality to save Wilbur, prioritizing his survival over her own comfort. This choice reveals friendship as action, not just feeling. She doesn't expect anything in return—she acts purely out of love for her friend.

L - LINK:
This selflessness supports the thesis that White defines friendship through sacrifice, not longevity. Charlotte's brief life has lasting impact because of her willing sacrifice.

CHECKLIST FOR STRONG PARAGRAPHS

Topic sentence makes a clear claim
Evidence directly supports the claim
Page number included with quote
Explanation is longer than the quote
Analysis explains "how" or "why," not just "what"

Link connects to main thesis
Paragraph stays focused on one main idea
Transitions smoothly to next paragraph

TRANSITION WORDS

To add evidence: Furthermore, Additionally, Moreover, Also
To show contrast: However, In contrast, On the other hand, Yet
To show cause/effect: Therefore, Consequently, As a result, Thus
To emphasize: Indeed, In fact, Notably, Significantly
To conclude point: Ultimately, Finally, In the end

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

Plot summary instead of analysis
Wrong: "Charlotte dies at the end of the book."
Right: "Charlotte's death reveals that friendship's value lies in impact, not duration."

Evidence without explanation
Wrong: Just dropping a quote with no analysis
Right: Quote + 2-3 sentences explaining what it means

Explanation without evidence
Wrong: Making claims with no proof from the book
Right: Every claim backed by specific examples

Forgetting to link back
Wrong: Moving to next idea without connecting to thesis
Right: Every paragraph ends by reinforcing main argument

QUICK FORMULAS

Character Analysis Paragraph:
Point (trait) → Evidence (action showing trait) → Explanation (why they act this way) →
Link (what this reveals about theme)

Theme Paragraph:

Point (theme statement) → Evidence (scene demonstrating theme) → Explanation (how scene shows theme) → Link (connects to thesis)

Symbol Analysis Paragraph:

Point (what symbol represents) → Evidence (how symbol appears) → Explanation (deeper meaning) → Link (significance to overall message)

PRACTICE SPACE

Use this template for your next body paragraph:

P: _____

_____

E: "_____

_____" (Page _____)

E: _____

_____

_____

L: _____

_____

2025 | **Print multiple copies for each body paragraph you need to write**