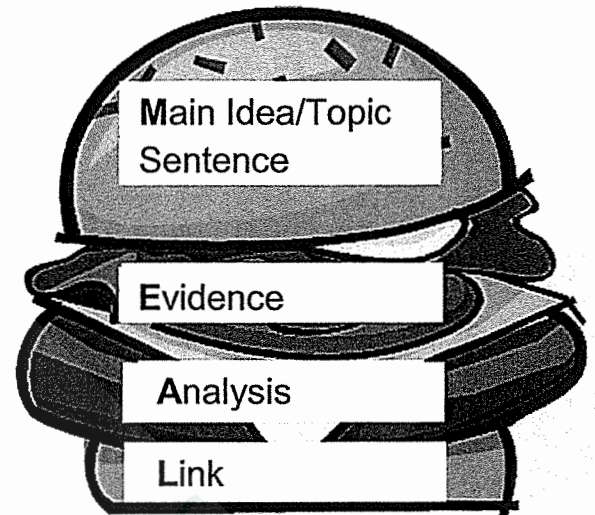


MEAL Plan

Key Elements of a Body Paragraph

- A topic sentence
- Supporting details
- Staying on topic
- Clear structure



Think MEAL Plan

M-Main Idea: Can be a topic sentence. Expresses the main idea of the paragraph in which it occurs. Ties back to the Thesis!

Ex: Dogs are the best animal because they have professional uses.

E-Evidence: Use source material as evidence to help explain or argue the main idea. Include citations, facts, statistics, quotations, etc.

Ex: According to the website "How Stuff Works," service dogs, "keep on a direct route, ignoring distractions such as smells, other animals, and people."

A-Analysis: Explain, bring together, and integrate the evidence. In this section we will compare, contrast, and explain. Does it relate to the main idea? There is generally, twice as much analysis as evidence.

Ex: Guide dogs enable the blind to navigate more easily.

L-Link: This section sums up what was discussed, and includes a transition to the next paragraph (if it is the last piece of evidence).

Ex: Not only do guide dogs have professional uses in different capacities, they are life-long companions.

Updated 5/16

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