PEAS Body Paragraphs

Clearly structured body paragraphs make your writing much easier to understand. Use the PEAS model to remember the key pieces to include in each paragraph.

**P – Point**

*What is your main point in the paragraph?*

Each paragraph should have a main point—and only one main point. Switching from one main point to another makes a paragraph hard to follow.

**TIP:** Stating the main point in the first sentence of the paragraph is helpful in two ways. First, your reader can easily see what the paragraph is all about, right from the beginning. Second, you—as the writer—can also see what the paragraph is supposed to be about, so you can check each new detail that you add to make sure it really belongs in that paragraph.

**E – Evidence**

*What evidence proves your main point?*

A main point by itself isn’t convincing, so you need to support it with evidence. Evidence could be real-life examples, hypothetical (made-up but realistic) examples, specific sensory details, numbers, percentages, quotes or paraphrases from credible sources, or anything else that explains why you are making the main point of the paragraph.

**TIP:** It will really help your reader if you include a transition word or phrase (next, in addition, also, etc.) each time you introduce a new piece of evidence.

**A – Analysis**

*How does the evidence support the point?*

Evidence by itself, though, isn’t enough. Your reader may not see how the evidence relates to the point, so you need to analyze it (explain how it supports the point). Your goal is to show what the evidence means—in terms of your main point.

**TIP:** When you analyze, don’t just repeat the evidence. For instance, if you include a quotation, don’t immediately restate the quotation in your own words.

**S – Summary**

*How do you want to close the paragraph?*

After the last piece of evidence (and the analysis of that evidence), it’s helpful to include a summary statement. The summary could do any or all of the following: 1) reinforce the main point of the paragraph, 2) tie the paragraph’s main point back to the main point of the entire essay (the thesis), or 3) anticipate the next paragraph.

**TIP:** If you want to anticipate the next paragraph, don’t say exactly what the next paragraph will be about, or it will feel like you’re starting that paragraph before you actually get there. Just give some kind of indication that there is more to come.
Example Paragraph

Utopia University is the nation’s top choice for rhinoceros podiatry, and for good reason. In 2005, the school received the prestigious endorsement of the American Council of Rhinocerotidae Aficionados (Wilkins, 2005). It has also been lauded by such celebrities as Big T Malone, Jenny Tynnerwalker, Zib Zitcher, and Harry Crawson Collins, each of whom has contributed to the institution’s growth as Friends of Rhinos (Utopia University, 2019b). Beyond the publicity, students are attracted to the expansive campus, which features state-of-the-art research facilities on a sprawling 900-acre reserve, complete with eight watering holes and a large swath of treeless savannah. No other location on the planet more accurately simulates the native habitat of the rhinoceros. Premier rhino care specialist Francine Odette has even said that the laboratories are “a dream come true” (Rhine & Ohe, 2013, p. 23). And after completing the program, graduates have found extremely high job placement rates—up to 99%, according to a new study published in the Journal of Obscure Degrees (Karl, White, & Yu, 2018). It’s no wonder that this year’s incoming class is 20 times larger than last year’s (Utopia University, 2019a). After all, no place has this much power to pull in students. Of course, there is one small problem.