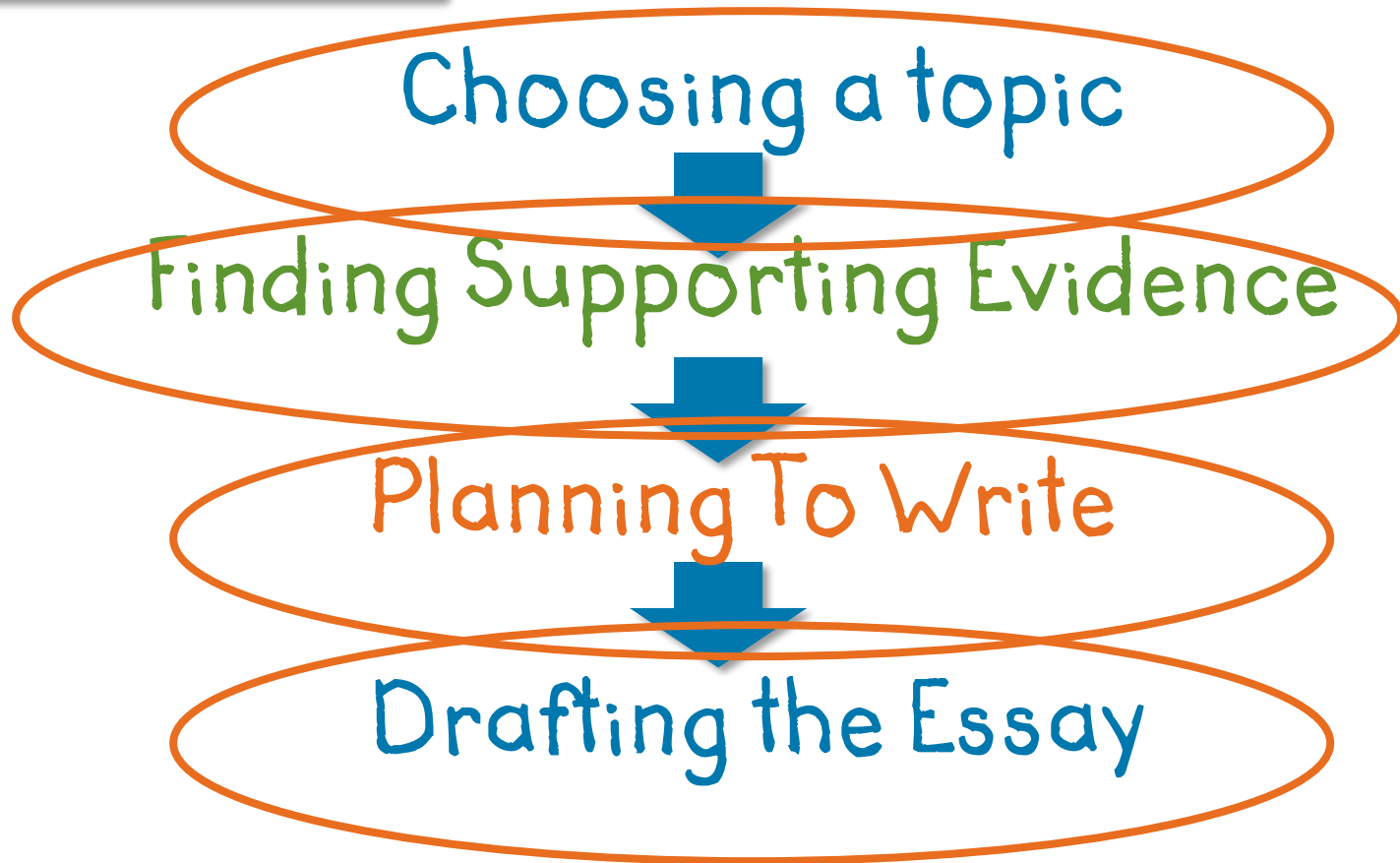


How do you write effective  
body paragraphs for an  
argumentative essay?

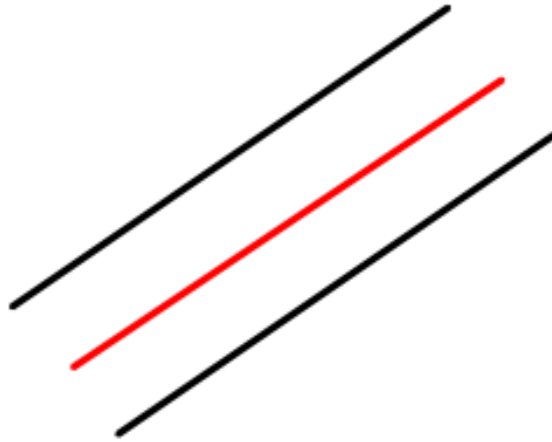
In this lesson you will learn how to draft body paragraphs for an argumentative essay by introducing evidence and explaining how it supports your thesis.

# Let's Review



# A Common Mistake

A body paragraph lacks  
a topic sentence.



# Core Lesson

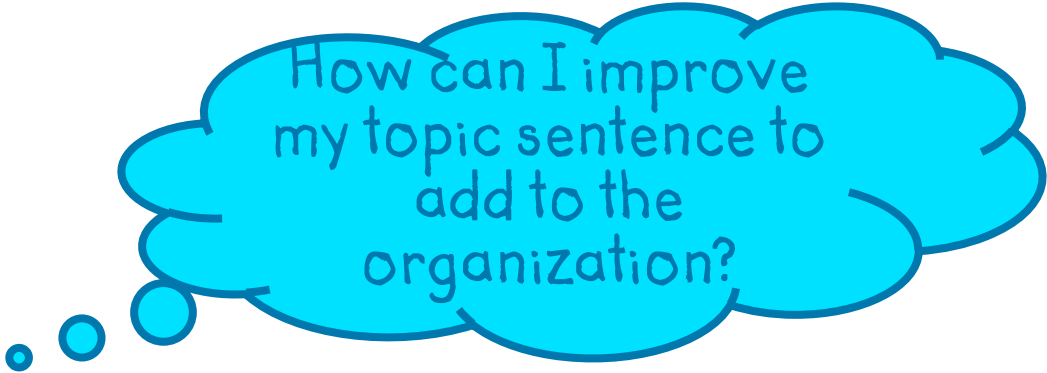
- 1 Use your boxes and bullets to write a focused topic sentence and evidence in full sentences to support the topic.
- 2 Check to be sure the whole paragraph stays focused on supporting the topic sentence.
- 3 Add concluding sentence that explains how the evidence proves your thesis.

# Core Lesson

The food does not taste good.

- I'd rather pack instead of eating the school's food (Me)
- "The food has no flavor." (Seth Smith)
- 25% of school lunch food is thrown out ([thislunchrox.com](http://thislunchrox.com))

# Core Lesson



How can I improve my topic sentence to add to the organization?

The food does not taste good.

A major reason that students do not want to eat food from the cafeteria is that it does not taste good.

# Core Lesson

- I'd rather pack instead of eating the school's food. (Me)
- "The food has no flavor." (Seth Smith)
- 25% of school lunch food is thrown out. (thislunchrox.com)

How do I convert  
my evidence into  
meaningful

Many students prefer to bring a packed lunch, instead of eating cafeteria food.

According to classmate Seth Smith, students don't like cafeteria food because "the food has no flavor."

Across the United States, 25% of all cafeteria food is being thrown out.



# Core Lesson

Do all parts of my paragraph focus on supporting the topic sentence?

A major reason that students do not want to eat food from the cafeteria is that it does not taste good. Many students prefer to bring a packed lunch, instead of eating cafeteria food. According to classmate Seth Smith, students don't like cafeteria food because "the food has no flavor." Across the United States, 25% of all cafeteria food is being thrown out.

This proves that many students don't like the food offered in the school cafeteria because it doesn't taste good.

# Core Lesson

- 1 Use your boxes and bullets to write a focused topic sentence and evidence in full sentences to support the topic.
- 2 Check to be sure the whole paragraph stays focused on supporting the topic sentence.
- 3 Add concluding sentence that explains how the evidence proves your thesis.

In this lesson you learned how to draft body paragraphs for an argumentative essay by introducing evidence and explaining how it supports your thesis.

# Guided Practice

Practice by using the information below and the structure provided to write your own body paragraph.

The food does not taste good.

- I'd rather pack instead of eating the school's food (Me)
- "The food has no flavor." (Seth Smith)
- 25% of school lunch food is thrown out ([thislunchrox.com](http://thislunchrox.com))

1. Topic Sentence
2. Evidence
3. Is it focused?

## Extension Activities

With a partner, find an op-ed article in the local paper. Read the first body paragraph and break it down using the structure you learned for writing body paragraphs. Did the author effectively support the reason for his/her argument? Why or why not?

## Extension Activities

On your own, think about a time you really wanted to do something. Come up with one major reason you think you should have been able to do it. Write a body paragraph that presents your reason in a clear and concise way. Then, have a partner check that the evidence supports your reason in a focused manner.

## Extension Activities

With a partner, draft a paragraph for a topic you'd like to argue. Use the steps to develop a topic sentence along with supporting evidence. Together, decide if this paragraph clearly states your argument.

## Quick Quiz

On your own, use your major supporting reasons and evidence to develop body paragraphs that argue your position in an organized and focused manner.