

**Support paragraphs** resemble the legs under a table. In order for the table to be sturdy and not topple over, each leg must be well built and stable to support the table top. Therefore, if one leg is weak, then the table top (the Thesis statement) will not be well supported. Hence, when a Support paragraph is weak, it impacts the stability or the effectiveness of the entire essay.

Each Support paragraph is comprised (made up of) a Topic sentence, and 3-4 details, facts, illustrations, examples, and statistics, and a Concluding sentence.

NOTE: To see the comments I made and the line connecting the text to the comment, use your mouse to hover over the comment. It will show the entire comment, highlight the text the comment refers to, and draw a line connecting the text and the comment.

**Topic sentence:**

One sentence that states the topic/ purpose of a Support paragraph. After reading the Topic sentence, your reader should know precisely what the paragraph is about.

Yellow: Your claim (Whether it is being stated verbatim (word for word) or using other words that say the same thing, the claim must be stated in the Topic sentence. This connects the Topic sentence to the Main Point for each Support paragraph.

Green: 1st Main Point

Blue: 2nd Main Point

Pink: 3rd Main Point

Gray: 4th Main Point

Brown: 5th Main Point

Example:

**Introduction** (includes thesis/claim) Thesis: All students attending Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) should be required to take English 101.

**Support Paragraph 1** – to develop critical thinking skills

**Support Paragraph 2** – to improve writing skills

**Support Paragraph 3** – to expand vocabulary

**Support Paragraph 4** – to expose students to the different genres of writing

**Support Paragraph 5** – to ensure they can transfer to any other accredited college/ university

**Conclusion**

The Introduction paragraph goes here and includes the Thesis statement. All students attending Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) should be required to take English 101.

1st Support paragraph Topic sentence: One reason all students attending Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) should be required to take English 101 is to help them to develop critical thinking skills.

2nd Support paragraph Topic sentence: Another reason all students attending BCCC should be required to take English 101 is to improve their writing skills.

3rd Support paragraph Topic sentence: Additionally, all students attending BCCC should be required to take English 101 to expand their vocabulary skills.

4th Support paragraph Topic sentence: Moreover, all students attending BCCC should be required to take English 101 to expose them to the different genres of writing.

5th Support paragraph Topic sentence: Lastly, all students attending BCCC should be required to take English 101 to ensure they can transfer to any other accredited college/

University.

**Details, facts, illustrations, examples, and statistics:**

The bulk of the Support paragraph includes 5-6 sentences that explain and expand on your reasoning behind what is stated in the Topic sentence. After reading the details, facts, examples, illustrations, and/or statistic**s**, included in each Support paragraph, your reader should have a full understanding as to why you believe each Main Point is valid.

Example:

Moreover, all students attending BCCC should be required to take English 101 to expose them to the different genres of writing. One of the objectives of English 101 is to expose students to the different genres of writing. In writing, there are different genres or types of writing including descriptive, argumentative, narrative, informative, and expository, to name a few. As well, there are many different instances in life, outside of a school environment, where people are required to submit a written document. For example, on a job application, the applicant may be asked to submit a writing sample in response to a specific question. A person might also need to write his Congressman about an issue plaguing their neighborhood. Additionally, depending on a person’s profession, he might be required to write legal briefs, medical notes, instructions, emails responses to clients, or some other type of writing. Therefore, it is imperative that all students take English 101 to ensure they are well prepared to do the various types of writing that are required for different employment and life situations.

**Concluding sentence:**

The Concluding sentence is the last sentence of the paragraph. It is one sentence that draws a conclusion about the contents of the paragraph. More than likely, it begins with a Transition word such as all in all, *therefore, hence, consequently, thus, subsequently, generally speaking, as a result, etc.*

Transition words such as *In conclusion* and *To conclude* **should not be used** to begin the Concluding sentence in the Support paragraph because you are not just concluding but rather drawing a conclusion about the contents of the paragraphs.

Example:

Therefore, it is imperative that all students take English 101 to ensure they are well

prepared to do the various types of writing that are required for different employment and life

situations.