

Term: “Core components of a body paragraph”

Definition: There are a few core components of a body paragraph:

- First of all, we assume that two evidence chunks exist in each body paragraph. This is not a hard and fast rule in the upper grades as organizational structure and argument may allow for different types of body paragraphs, but is a common expectation in grades 9 and 10.
- The body paragraph includes:
 - Assertion
 - Context
 - Evidence
 - Interpretation
 - Context
 - Evidence
 - Interpretation
 - Transition / Closing

Example

“Initially, Nick admires Gatsby’s ambition and desire to go after what he wants. In the beginning of the book, Nick does not have any knowledge of who his neighbor is. One night, when Nick comes home, he sees Gatsby standing on the top of his house staring towards a green light. Nick states, “He stretched out his arms toward the dark water in a curious way, and, far as I was from him, I could have sworn he was trembling” (20). Nick can see that there is something that Gatsby wants. He says Gatsby’s arms are “stretched out”, indicating that Gatsby is reaching for something. Gatsby is not reaching for something literally in this passage, but the green light represents Gatsby desires. Nick also sees Gatsby’s ambition when he states the he could have “sworn he was trembling.” Not only does Nick see that Gatsby’s arms are stretched out, but that Gatsby is shaking as well. Gatsby wants what the light represents so bad that he starts to shake as if it is something he is addicted to. Also, Nick admires Gatsby’s ambition even more due to the evidence Nick sees of Gatsby at a young age. When Gatsby dies at the end of the novel, Nick gets the chance to meet

(continued)

Non-Example

“First off, a determined leader is needed to run a functional revolution. In Russia, Lenin inspired the people to ge together and revolt. If it wasn’t for him and his devotion to the cause, the people would not have succeeded in creating the nation they wanted. “The sphere from which alone it is possible to obtain this knowledge is the sphere of relationships of all classes and strata to the state and the government, the sphere of interrelations between all classes made possible by professional revolutionaries.”(V.I. Lenin) Lenin expresses the idea that in order to create and run a revolution, you need a professional and experienced leader to lead the group. Unfortunately, without one, the attempt would be futile.”

Analysis: This paragraph meets the criteria for a 1 in organization because “most core components” are present. However, it cannot score a 2 because it is missing an entire evidence chunk (context, evidence, interpretation).

Gatsby's father who shows Nick a list that Gatsby had as a young boy. It reads:

Rise from bed6.00 A.M.
Dumbbell exercise and wall-scaling6.15-6.30“
Study electricity, etc.....7.15-8.15 “
Work.....8.30-4.30 P.M.
Baseball and sports.....4.30-5.00 “
Practice elocution, poise and how to attain it.5.00-6.00 “
Study needed inventions...7.00-9.00 (173).

Gatsby's schedule shows his determination, even as a young boy. Nothing can stop him. The fact that he has his life planned down to the hours of the day shows the determination that Gatsby has to succeed in life. Nick has admiration for Gatsby because he is not like everybody else. Gatsby is different.”