




Paragraph Structure

- Most paragraphs in a research-based paper use a similar basic structure, with 5 main pieces.
- (This does not necessarily mean exactly 5 sentences...)


A decorative header at the top of the slide features a bright yellow sun with a small blue circle in the center, partially obscured by several light blue, stylized clouds. The background of the entire slide is a solid, medium blue color.

Think of writing as similar to cooking.

A beginning chef starts off with a recipe, and follows the instructions. Doing so usually leads to success.

A decorative header featuring a bright yellow sun with a small blue circle in the center, partially obscured by stylized blue and white clouds. The background is a solid blue color with a subtle pattern of lighter blue squares.

A more advanced chef uses the recipe as a starting point, and makes changes and improvements as s/he sees fit.



A master chef might throw out the recipe entirely and work from scratch, based on his/her own knowledge of how the ingredients work together.



You are beginning chefs.
Here is your recipe:

- Claim
- Explanation
- Evidence/Proof
- Commentary/Explanation/
Analysis
- Conclusion



Claim

- Topic sentence
- Lets your reader know what the paragraph will be about
- Makes a point or an “argument”



Explanation

- Expands on topic sentence
- Gives background info
- Provides further information to help inform reader about the topic



Evidence/Proof

- Evidence usually comes from an outside source (not from your own head!)
- Helps you support your claim
- Quotes make excellent evidence!
 - Quote sandwich: 1st piece of bread + meat = evidence



Commentary/Analysis

- Explains/analyzes/expands upon the idea(s) presented in the evidence
- Last piece of bread in the quote sandwich



Conclusion

- Closing statement/closing “argument”
- Last chance to make your point