

## PIE and TEA: Methods of Developing Body Paragraphs

### Understanding Body Paragraphs

It's important that you understand the function and composition of body paragraphs within an essay.

- Each body paragraph is meant to support and develop some aspect of your thesis.
- It is also meant to be cohesive as its own stand alone unit.

### A Couple of Key Points

1. Open your body paragraph with a clear and direct topic sentence that states the point of the paragraph.
2. Make only one point per body paragraph (but do take more than one to make a single point as necessary).

### Tools for Paragraph Development

We've been talking about the importance of organization and planning as it relates to your essays. The thesis provides us with a clear topic, focus, and plan of development. Now, as you work on the drafts of your persuasive essay, it makes sense to focus on how to clearly develop body paragraphs that support your thesis (and thereby prove your argument).

The following are two methods that will help you see the components and structure of an effective body paragraph. **Take a quick look. They're helpful and provide samples.**

#### PIE

PIE stands for "Point, Information, and Explanation." It's detailed here: <https://awc.ashford.edu/essay-dev-pie-paragraph.html>

#### TEA

TEA stands for "Topic Sentence, Explanation, Analysis." It's detailed here: <http://www.uwyo.edu/english/undergraduate-students/english1010/1010-osh-tea.html>