

T-C-E-C-C Paragraph Structure Overview

Topic Sentence

- Your topic sentence clearly and succinctly communicates your main claim or argument in one sentence.
- In an essay, your topic sentence supports and develops the thesis statement that guides your essay's main idea.

Context

- Provide background information and specific details that will help bring clarity to the evidence you selected.
- Provide the reader with any additional supporting contextual information that will help set up your direct quote.

Evidence

- Include direct or paraphrased quotation from the text that illustrates your main idea in the paragraph.
- Anytime you include evidence taken from any source, you must cite the quotation in proper MLA format.

Commentary I

- Analyze the connection between your main idea and the quote you have selected to illustrate your main idea.
- Unpack your evidence for the reader and explain why your evidence is significant in light of your topic sentence.

Commentary II

- Reiterate the significance of your main idea to the reader in light of the evidence and analysis you have provided them.
- Conclude and summarize the importance of your main idea and draw connections to the deeper, more universal implications underlying your topic sentence.