

Educator Information and Directions

Student Objectives

1. Describe the structure of an effective body paragraph
2. Craft body paragraphs for an expository essay
3. Identify and apply transition words within body paragraphs

Day 1

- Watch the **Video Lesson** and complete your **Guided Notes**.
- Complete the **Body Paragraph ID Activity**.
- Complete **Online Practice 1**.

Day 2

- Complete the **Warm-Up**.
- Complete the **Drafting Paragraph 1 Activity**.
- Complete **Online Practice 2**.

Day 3

- Complete the **Warm-Up**.
- Complete the **Drafting Paragraph 2 Activity**.
- Complete **Online Practice 3**.

Day 4

- Complete the **Warm-Up**.
- Complete the **Drafting Paragraph 3 Activity**.
- Complete **Online Practice 4**.

Day 5

- Complete the **Putting It All Together Activity**.
- Complete the **Online Assessment**.

Suggested Reward

Use your account to reward 100 Gold/\$coops for each worksheet completed in this packet.

Extension Activities

Paragraph Puzzle: Cut out Justin's body paragraphs on **p. 19** and mix them up! Can you rearrange them in the correct order of points listed in his main idea? Ask an adult for help if you need it!

Note to Educators:

When writing body paragraphs, it may be helpful for students to have their outline close by. There are reference pages in this PDF to use as well for adding transition words and seeing a model of complete body paragraphs. Those reference pages can be found on **p. 11** and **p. 19**.

Children progress at their own pace when developing writing skills. Your student may need more time and assistance to draft their body paragraphs, or you may need to adjust the number of body paragraphs to include in their essay. Students may choose to draft in many different forms, such as writing bullet points, drawing ideas out, or recording their thoughts with a voice note.



Complete While Watching Video



Example



Student Practice



Write It Out!

Day One

Guided Notes: Part One

Guided Notes: While you are watching the video, fill in the information below for your notes.



Purpose of a body paragraph - to _____ the main idea;
expand on the paragraph _____

1. Topic sentence - a _____ introduction to what your
_____ will be about

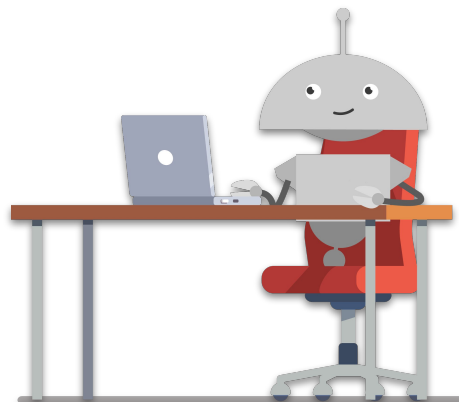


Pause the video. Circle what you think the first topic sentence will be about.

“Lightning has specific causes and various types, and it requires safety measures.”

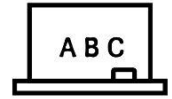
Remember:

Make sure that you have access to your outline as you draft your body paragraphs!



Guided Notes: Part Two

Guided Notes: While you are watching the video, fill in the information below for your notes.



2. Supporting detail - _____, examples, or data to support your _____ sentence

- *Example: Lightning occurs due to the build-up and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charged areas.*



3. Explanation - provides clarity and shows your reader _____ the supporting details support your _____ sentence

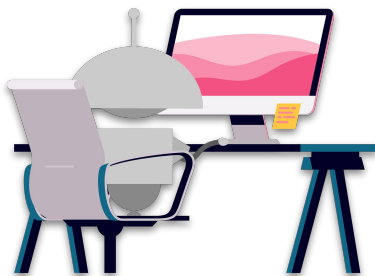
- Ask yourself a “_____?” question.
- *Example: This electricity comes from thunderstorms that are created when warm air rises and interacts with cold air.*

4. _____ supporting detail and explanation - gives the reader more context and detail

Check out Justin’s first body paragraph on the next page!

Remember:

Expository essays generally contain an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph.



Guided Notes: Part Three

Guided Notes: While you are watching the video, fill in the information below for your notes.



Pause the video. Underline the second supporting detail and circle the second explanation sentence.



To begin, lightning has specific causes due to electricity in the sky. Lightning occurs due to the build-up and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charged areas. This electricity comes from thunderstorms that are created when warm air rises and interacts with cold air. When the electrical charge at the bottom of a cloud becomes too strong, it discharges toward the ground as lightning. In a typical storm, charges around 100 million volts of electricity can be too much for a cloud to hold, and lightning occurs. By understanding the cause of lightning, we can see that this spectacle is the result of a remarkable natural process.



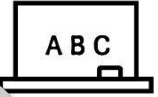
5. Closing Sentence - _____ your paragraph and engages the reader

Bonus Challenge: Put a wavy line underneath the closing sentence in the above paragraph.



Guided Notes: Part Four

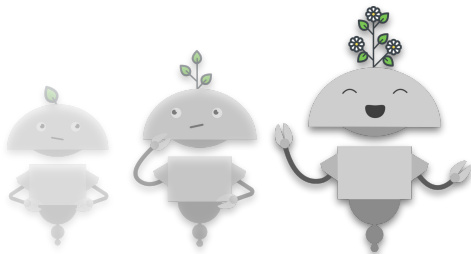
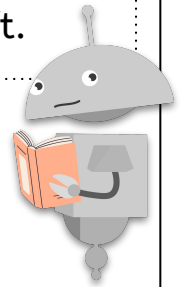
Guided Notes: While you are watching the video, fill in the information below for your notes.



Your Essay

- Body paragraphs are generally _____ to _____ sentences long.
 - Each paragraph should be about _____ point listed in your main _____.
- ❖ Topic sentence
 - ❖ Supporting detail one
 - ❖ Explanation
 - ❖ Supporting detail two (optional)
 - ❖ Explanation two (optional)
 - ❖ Closing sentence

Each body paragraph will follow this pattern. Don't forget to reference your outline as your draft.



Remember:

Every writer is *unique*. Learning how to write is a personal and sometimes challenging journey. It's okay to make mistakes. It's all a part of learning and growing as a writer!

Body Paragraph ID Activity

DIRECTIONS: Draw lines or match the letters from the body paragraph elements to their descriptions. Then, do the same for the examples!



Elements:

a. Topic Sentence

b. Supporting Detail

c. Explanation

d. Closing Sentence

Descriptions:

Provides clarity and answers “why?”

Wraps up your paragraph and engages the reader

A mini introduction to what your paragraph will be about

Facts, examples, or data

Elements:

a. Topic Sentence

b. Supporting Detail

c. Explanation

d. Closing Sentence

Examples:

So, Lake Maracaibo offers a truly electrifying experience unlike any other place.

To begin, Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela is famously known as the world’s lightning capital.

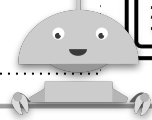
The lake sees up to 28 lightning strikes per minute at its peak due to its unique climate and geography.

Warm lake water and cool mountain air create this climate that is perfect for spectacular lightning storms.

Day Two

Warm-Up: Step One

STEP ONE: Refresh your memory! Read the outline for Justin's body paragraphs linked [here](#). Then, read the mini-lesson below.



Paragraph 2: Types of lightning

Detail 1: The most common type of cloud-to-ground lightning is called a stepped ladder.

Detail 2: Intracloud lightning is the most common type of lightning in a storm.

Paragraph 3: Safety during thunderstorms

Detail 1: During a storm, stay away from exterior windows and doors, especially if they have metal parts.

Detail 2: If you are outdoors, look for shelter or find a low-lying area. Avoid open fields or single tall trees.

Mini-Lesson: From Outline to Essay

Did you know that your essay does not have to perfectly match your outline?

You may not use everything that you originally outlined and that's okay. Sometimes, you might want to change something. You might find a better detail to include or a fact that makes more sense.







Look closely as you read Justin's body paragraphs. You'll find one detail has been changed from his outline!

Warm-Up: Step Two

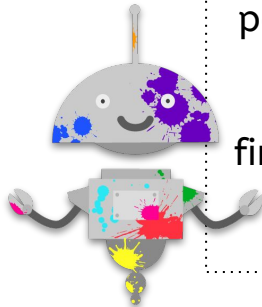
STEP TWO: Review the markup guide for labelling the parts of a body paragraph below. You will be marking Justin's body paragraphs on the next page.



Topic sentence	Mark in pink or...	<u>underline it with a wavy line</u>
Supporting detail #1	Mark in blue or...	draw a star near it 
Explanation #1	Mark in red or...	<u>circle it</u>
Supporting detail #2	Mark in blue or...	draw a star near it 
Explanation #2	Mark in red or...	<u>circle it</u>
Closing sentence	Mark in purple or...	draw a heart near it 
Changed detail from outline	Mark in green or...	draw a triangle near it 

Remember:

We looked at Justin's first body paragraph during the video lesson! You can always go back and mark up his first body paragraph on **p. 4** of this PDF.



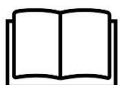
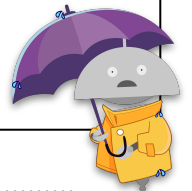
Warm-Up: Step Three

STEP THREE: Using the guide from p. 8, label the parts of the body paragraphs below.



Additionally, there are different kinds of lightning. The kind we see most often is “cloud-to-ground” lightning. This occurs when a bolt of electricity shoots from the sky and hits the Earth. Another type of lightning is called “intracloud” lightning, which happens within a cloud. Here, the bolts of lightning never actually reach the ground. Each type of lightning differs in appearance, intensity, and impact. Knowing about these kinds of lightning helps us understand why it’s important to be safe around it.

Finally, being safe when there’s lightning is very important. If there is lightning close by, the safest place is usually inside a building, away from exterior windows and doors, especially if they have metal components. A crucial rule to remember is the 30-30 rule. This means that if you see lightning and then hear thunder within 30 seconds, you should go to a safe place. If you’re outside, stay away from open fields and tall, isolated objects, such as a lone tree. This is because lightning likes to hit these places and is less likely to strike in low-lying areas. Safety measures such as these are critical in places like Four Corners, Florida, or Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela, where lightning strikes are frequent.



Audio option: Use the URL below to listen to the text and read along.

[Audio Link: Body Paragraphs](#)

Drafting the First Body Paragraph

DIRECTIONS: Use this graphic organizer to draft your first body paragraph. Make sure that you have your outline nearby to use.



Topic Sentence:

Supporting Detail One:

Explanation One:



Optional Challenge

Supporting Detail Two:

Explanation Two:

Closing Sentence:

Day Three

Transition Words and Phrases Reference Sheet

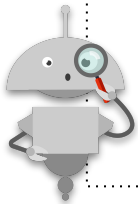
DIRECTIONS: Read through the mini-lesson below and use this page as a reference for using transitions as you write your body paragraphs. The table below provides examples of transition words to use in your essay.



Mini-Lesson: Transition Words

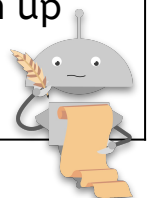
These words link paragraphs together and help to smoothly connect ideas. This is called the “flow” of your essay.

You’ll find transition words at the start of body paragraphs.



*Example: **To begin**, lightning has specific causes due to electricity in the sky.*

If you’re adding a new idea...	If you’re describing order...	If you’re comparing and contrasting...	If you’re writing a conclusion...
Furthermore	First/Firstly	Although	Overall
Also	Second/Secondly	Different from	In conclusion
In addition	Third/Thirdly	In contrast	In summary
Additionally	To begin	However	In brief
Moreover	Finally	Similarly	To sum up

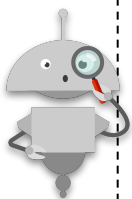


Warm-Up

DIRECTIONS: Use the Transition Words Reference Sheet to highlight the five transition words used in the following paragraphs.

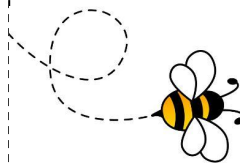


1. Firstly, bees play a vital role in pollination. This process leads to the formation of fruits we eat and seeds that will create more plants. Without bees and other pollinators, our diets would be severely limited. Furthermore, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, around 75% of the world's food crops depend on pollination by insects and other animals.
2. In addition to their impact on food production, bees contribute significantly to biodiversity in ecosystems. By pollinating a wide variety of plants, bees help maintain the health and vitality of natural habitats. They support the growth of trees and flowers which serve as food and shelter for other wildlife. Moreover, this biodiversity is important not just for the species that live in these habitats, but it also helps regulate climate, purify air and water, and maintain nutrient cycles.



Bonus Challenge

Read Justin's Body Paragraphs on p. 19 and highlight the transition words that he uses!



Drafting the Second Body Paragraph

DIRECTIONS: Use this graphic organizer or the device of your choice to draft your second body paragraph. Make sure that you have your outline nearby to use.



Topic Sentence: *Turn the second point from your main idea into a full sentence.*

Supporting Detail One: *Reference your outline or do a little more research.*

Explanation One: *Answer a “why” question about your detail.*

Optional Supporting Detail Two: *Only include this if you’re up to the challenge!*

Optional Explanation Two: *Only include this if you wrote a second supporting detail.*

Closing Sentence: *Write a summary of your topic and connect to the main idea.*

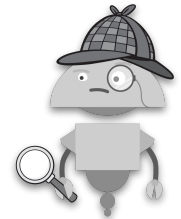
Day Four

Warm-Up

DIRECTIONS: Use the Transition Words Reference Sheet to add transition words to these topic sentences. Try to read them out loud or use a text-to-speech tool to check how well the words flow together. Do not reuse any transition words!



1. “ _____, recycling is not only important to preserve our environment, but it also contributes significantly to the economy.”
2. “ _____, not all bacteria are harmful; some are actually essential for our health.”
3. “ _____, understanding the basics of budgeting is essential for managing personal finances effectively.”
4. “ _____ it may seem difficult at first, learning a second language can offer numerous benefits.”
5. “ _____, while technology has made communication easier, it also poses challenges to privacy and personal interaction.”



Where Should I Add Transition Words?

Add transition words at the very beginning of a topic sentence to help flow into the new topic.

Drafting the Third Body Paragraph

DIRECTIONS: Use this graphic organizer to draft your third body paragraph. Make sure that you have your outline nearby to use.

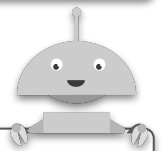


Topic Sentence:

Supporting Detail One

Explanation One

Optional Challenge

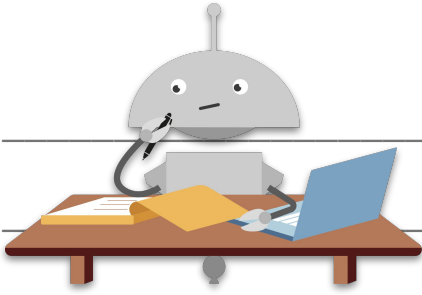


Supporting Detail Two

Explanation Two

Closing Sentence:

Putting It All Together Activity (cont.)



Justin's Body Paragraphs

DIRECTIONS: Read Justin's body paragraphs. Click [here](#) to revisit his outline and see how they connect!



Body Paragraph One: To begin, lightning has specific causes due to electricity in the sky. Lightning occurs due to the build-up and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charged areas. This electricity comes from thunderstorms that are created when warm air rises and interacts with cold air. When the electrical charge at the bottom of a cloud becomes too strong, it discharges toward the ground as lightning. In a typical storm, charges around 100 million volts of electricity can be too much for a cloud to hold and lightning occurs. By understanding the cause of lightning, we can see that this spectacle is not just fascinating to watch, but is the result of a remarkable natural process.

Body Paragraph Two: Additionally, there are different kinds of lightning. The kind we see most often is “cloud to ground” lightning. This occurs when a bolt of electricity shoots from the sky and hits the Earth. Another type of lightning is called “intracloud” lightning, which happens within a cloud. Here, the bolts of lightning never actually reach the ground. Each type of lightning differs in appearance, intensity, and impact. Knowing about these kinds of lightning helps us understand why it's important to be safe around it.

Body Paragraph Three: Finally, being safe when there's lightning is very important. If there is lightning close by, the safest place is usually inside a building, away from exterior windows and doors, especially if they have metal components. A crucial rule to remember is the 30-30 rule. This means that if you see lightning and then hear thunder within 30 seconds, you should go to a safe place. If you're outside, stay away from open fields and tall, isolated objects, such as a lone tree. This is because lightning likes to hit these places and is less likely to strike in low-lying areas. Safety measures such as these are critical in places like Four Corners, Florida, or Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela, where lightning strikes are frequent.



Audio option: Use the URL below to listen to the text, and read along
[Audio Link: Body Paragraphs](#)