

## Structure for the body of your essay

A good **body paragraph claim** consists of the following parts:

- 1) a transition that clearly tells the reader how the claim relates to the previous claim and the thesis (the thesis connection is often clear from key terms, but sometimes needs to be specific, eg, "However, recognizing that the Explainer's pants don't fit [this ties the new claim to the claim in the last paragraph] raises a question [this identifies the new claim as part of the problem/question thesis element], specifically that... [this is the beginning of new claim itself]"
- 2) a descriptive part that points to a specific aspect of the text
- 3) an interpretive part, that says what this aspect of the text means, why it is important in relation to the thesis element that this claim relates to.

Note: A Claim is special because it identifies the statement not as a fact or idea (statement or point). Claims are active; they are designed to provoke the reader to question them, to ask for explanation or proof. Claims do this by linking description to interpretation, by telling the reader to notice something and then telling the reader why that something matters in relation to the thesis.

## Evidence

Evidence also belongs in each body paragraph. One piece of evidence supports each claim. **A quote only becomes evidence** when it directly relates to your claim. In other words, evidence becomes evidence when it has been a) **introduced and framed** (so that the reader understands everything that she needs to understand in order to read the evidence the way that you are teaching her to read it) and b) **analyzed** (i.e. you've explained what is important about your quote and why it supports your claim). If you have not introduced, framed, and analyzed your quote, then you have not created evidence to support your claim. Evidence forces us (the writer) to test our own claim and think about it. Fully formed evidence can sometimes teach us that our claim is not logical or reasonable.

## Key Terms

Key terms help your reader to remain oriented. You should use key terms introduced in your thesis paragraph in every new body paragraph claim, to keep your reader oriented. That is, you should introduce all key terms in the your thesis paragraph and, depending on the claim you are developing, use the same key term for that body paragraph claim. The key term should come up in the body paragraph claim, as well as when you frame and analyze your evidence.