

BODY PARAGRAPH 'CHECKUP'

This activity will let you improve one (or more) of your draft body paragraphs.

AT-HOME ACTIVITY: BODY PARAGRAPH CHECKUP

***Check off each step as you complete it.

✱FIND ONE OF YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS IN YOUR DRAFT SO FAR....

✱PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE AND EVIDENCE

Read the body paragraph for these 'features.' MARK ANYTHING THAT'S MISSING!

1) Does this paragraph have a **topic sentence** that expresses the main idea?

A good topic sentence tells us what kind of evidence will be presented and a claim about what you'll be proving. "What comes next?" Tell us what that is.

2) Does this paragraph have **two quote sandwiches** for evidence:

Go over (2x, once for each quote):

Signal phrase The author says,

Quote and Citation "----" (Smith 100). Are cites correct? Check formatting.

Explanation of Quote. In this quote, the author means / implies / suggests

[EXPLAIN QUOTE]. (You would use less explanation for facts from

encyclopedias, but almost any other quote deserves a full explanation.)

'Warrant' -- Final 'seal the deal' sentence(s) that tie the evidence to thesis or topic sentence. This evidence proves my thesis (or my topic sentence, an intermediate step toward proving the larger argument).

3) Does this paragraph have a '**seal-the-deal**' **warrant sentence** that connects the evidence back to the thesis or main idea and proves something? Does this body paragraph tell us that it finished the job outlined in the topic sentence?

✿ PLAGIARISM DETECTIVE:

4) Do any words sound like they come from a source -- but are not quoted or cited? MARK WITH **MISSING QUOTE / CITE**

5) Are there any facts (statistics, etc.) without quotes BUT WITHOUT CITES MARK WITH **MISSING CITE FOR FACT**

6) Are there any quoted passages WITHOUT CITES MARK WITH **MISSING CITE**

✿ STYLE DETECTIVE

7) Read over paragraph for style and grammar -- mark confusing sentences or phrases. Underline any confusing word choices.

✿ FIX EDITS IN YOUR DRAFT

8) MAKE THESE EDITS IN YOUR DOCUMENT. You can repeat the above steps for multiple body paragraphs, of course!

✿ SAVE YOUR WORK

9) Remember to save your work if using Word (automatic in Google Docs).