



DC English 1302

Composition

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Academic Deductive Paragraphs

In an academic, research setting *at least* five sentences are needed to defend your chosen subject.

1. Topic sentence introduces the subject (*general observations on topic*)
 2. Secondary evidence sentence (SES)
 3. SES (signal phrase, then citing an authority on the subject)
 4. SES (a review or analysis of the supplied evidence)
 5. Conclusion (deductive resolution regarding evidence; *specific results*)
- 

As a result, your thesis must be a deductive declaration.

The goal of an academic paragraph is to establish an observation (*or truth*) about your chosen subject—and *then* defend your view with backing evidence, with quotes or paraphrases from an authority, *plus* an explanation of how your chosen critic's viewpoint relates back to your thesis statement.

Each paragraph must follow this formula.

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Signal phrases are **vital** for students to establish their personal Ethos in papers. These simple phrases establish how much research a student has conducted and shows a student's evaluation and interpretative skills.

Instructors need to know what actions you are about to conduct in a paper:

- summarize a full essay
- paraphrase a segment of a paragraph
- use a direct quotation.

Academic MLA Paragraphs

Sample MLA Signal Phrases for Paraphrases:

X acknowledges that _____.

X agrees that _____.

X argues that _____.

X believes that _____.

X denies that _____.

X does not deny that _____.

X claims that _____.

X complains that _____.

X concedes that _____.

X demonstrates that _____.

X emphasizes that _____.

X insists that _____.

X observes that _____.

X questions whether _____.

X refuses to claim that _____.

X reminds us that _____.

X reports that _____.

X suggests that _____.

X urges that _____.

X speculates _____.

X theorizes that _____.

X condones the fact _____.

Dr. Carol Johnson, in her recent book *The Forgotten Immigrant*, clarifies Washington D.C.'s position when she **states** _____ [...] _____ (236).

Academic MLA Paragraphs

Edgar Allan Poe often utilizes mentally unstable characters as his protagonists. ¹
One reason for doing so puts readers off-guard and makes them feel uneasy. ²
Dr. Kythleen Warhol agrees in her article “The Darkened Chamber” ^{3a} when she states: “Poe’s manipulation of text and of his narrators’ personalities disturbs and alienates readers from a calm acceptance of logical natures” (356). ^{3b}
Dr. Warhol’s analysis further clarifies Poe’s strategies are more than accidental. ⁴ As a result it can be clearly seen that his reworkings of fiction have become standards in modern Gothic settings. ⁵

1. Topic sentence introduces the subject
2. Secondary evidence sentence (SES)
3. SES (signal phrase ^a, then citing an authority on the subject ^b)
4. SES (review or analysis of the supplied evidence) < *evaluate the writer’s stance*
5. Conclusion (deductive resolution regarding evidence)

Academic MLA Paragraphs

Edgar Allan Poe often **utilizes** mentally unstable characters as his protagonists. One reason for doing so **puts** readers off-guard and **makes** them feel uneasy. Dr. Kythleen Warhol **agrees** in her article “The Darkened Chamber” when she states: “Poe’s manipulation of text and of his narrators’ personalities **disturbs** and **alienates** readers from a calm acceptance of logical natures” (356). Dr. Warhol’s analysis further **clarifies** Poe’s strategies are more than accidental. As a result it can be clearly seen that his reworkings of fiction have become **standards** in modern Gothic settings.

3 Takeaways



- use *present tense* when discussing literature and academic writing
- for MLA papers, always use *deductive closures* of *all* paragraphs
- *transitions* warn readers of your actions