

Paragraphs serve as the building blocks of effective writing, providing structure and coherence to your ideas. This method offers a clear framework for organizing your thoughts and ensuring that your paragraphs are cohesive and persuasive. A.X.E.S. is an acronym for **A**ssertion, **eX**ample, **E**xplanation, and **S**ignificance.

Assertion

Assertions are akin to mini-thesis statements that outline the focus of a body paragraph and present a specific point. They differ from summaries or general statements, typically being only one sentence long.

eXample

The example is exactly what it sounds like: the evidence used to support your assertion. Examples can be direct quotes or brief paraphrases of the text. Always cite your sources and introduce quotations with signal phrases like "According to...". Remember, your example alone won't make your point; it needs to be explained.

Explanation

The explanation demonstrates to the reader how the example supports the assertion, serving as your analysis. If you use a lengthy example, ensure you explain all of it. The explanation should be about twice as long as the example and should comprise the majority of your paragraph. This is where you argue your point in detail.

Significance

The significance of the paragraph explains how everything you just proved in your specific example is still related back to the overall thesis of your paper. You do not have to refer to your whole thesis, but rather the most relevant part of it. This is usually about one to two sentences.