

Analyzing evidence is the most critical part of developing a body paragraph. Presenting evidence isn't enough; you must explain its significance and connect it to your thesis.

- Don't just present evidence — explain it.
- Connect the evidence to your thesis and topic sentence.
- Explore the implications and significance of the evidence.
- Use critical thinking to make your analysis persuasive and insightful.



Explain the Evidence

After presenting your evidence, clarify what it means in your own words. Avoid assuming the reader will understand its relevance; spell it out. Example:

- Evidence: "A study by Smith et al. found that microplastics were present in 94% of tap water samples tested in the United States (45)."
- Analysis: This suggests that microplastic contamination is nearly ubiquitous in water systems, raising concerns about the potential health risks for humans who consume this water.

Connect the Evidence to Your Argument

Show how the evidence supports your topic sentence and thesis. Ask yourself: How does this evidence prove my point? Example:

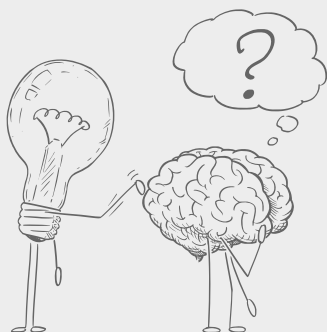
- Evidence: "The World Health Organization reports that microplastics in drinking water pose a 'low risk' to human health but acknowledges that long-term effects are still unknown (WHO 12)."
- Analysis: While the immediate risk may be low, the uncertainty about long-term exposure highlights the need for further research and stricter regulations to prevent potential health crises in the future.

Discuss the Implications

Go beyond the surface and explore the "so what?" factor. What does the evidence mean in a broader context? Example:

- Evidence: "A 2022 study found that microplastics in oceans are ingested by marine life, which can then enter the human food chain (Johnson et al. 78)."
- Analysis: This means that microplastic pollution is not just an environmental issue but also a public health concern, as humans may indirectly consume plastics through seafood, potentially leading to unknown health consequences.





Use Critical Thinking Questions

To deepen your analysis, ask yourself these questions:

- What does this evidence reveal?
- How does it relate to my argument?
- Why is this evidence important or convincing?
- What are the broader implications or consequences?
- Are there any limitations or alternative interpretations?

Example of Evidence and Analysis



Topic Sentence: Recent reports are finding that an alarming amount of microplastics are present in the world's water systems and why it's important to address immediately.

Evidence: According to a report by the Environmental Protection Agency, microplastics have been detected in 83% of global freshwater sources, including rivers and lakes (EPA 15)."

Analysis and Connection: This statistic emphasizes how widespread microplastic pollution has gotten, which threatens sea life as well as the quality of drinking water for millions of people. If left unaddressed, the accumulation of microplastics in freshwater systems could disrupt ecosystems and harm both wildlife and human health. Immediate action is needed to reduce plastic waste and improve water filtration technologies.

Transition: To address this growing problem, researchers need to be able to look at where microplastics come from and what steps we can take to reduce harm to wildlife and people.

Write Well- Developed Paragraphs

A strong body paragraph is the building block of a well-organized essay. It supports your thesis statement with clear evidence, analysis, and logical connections.

- Offer a clear topic sentence.
- Provide evidence to support your claim.
- Analyze the evidence.
- Connect to the broader argument.
- Include transition for flow.

