

Topic sentence

This gives the main point/idea of the paragraph. It has the most general meaning and tells us what the paragraph is about.

Development

This is where you expand on the point you are making explain, analyse, support with examples and evidence.

Conclusion / link

Here you finish off the idea of the paragraph, tying it back to the main point or the essay title, where appropriate.

Example:

[Topic Sentence] For some students, the first week at university is a stressful experience.

[Development] Straw (2019) has found that several factors can contribute to this. For example, new students have to process large amounts of information in a short period of time (Williams, 2016; Straw, 2019). Students also meet many new people and they have to learn their way around a new learning environment. All these factors can lead to anxiety (Jones, 2017). In addition, many students may feel lonely due to having moved away from friends and family and being in an unfamiliar setting (Little, 2018). **[Link]** Therefore, it is not surprising that nearly one third of students report feeling confused or anxious by the end of Freshers' Week (Fisher, 2020).