

Body

The body represents 80% of a paper and its number of sections is equivalent to its number of main ideas. As it makes up the **argumentation of the paper**, the goal of the body is to present in a convincing way the ideas that support the thesis. It must therefore be organized in a logical and coherent structure.

Main Ideas

The main ideas are the backbone of the argumentation. They directly support the thesis and, together, they cover all the major issues that are raised by the thesis in order to ensure that the topic is fully explored.

- They have a clear and direct connection with the thesis of the paper.
- They are developed by supporting ideas.

The main ideas must be organized logically, as they determine the structure of the entire paper. Depending on the progression of the paper, they can be organized in a variety of ways: in chronological order, in order of importance, from general to specific, from theory to practice, according to advantages and disadvantages, to similarities and differences, or to causes and effects, etc.

Supporting Ideas

The supporting ideas are the more focused arguments that bolster the main ideas.

- They have a clear and direct connection with the main ideas.
- They are backed-up by evidence or illustrated by examples.

In general, the supporting ideas that bolster the same main idea are grouped into one paragraph. However, if the paper can gain clarity by dividing a long paragraph into several shorter paragraphs, it is advised to do so (but a paragraph cannot be made of a single sentence). Transition words must be carefully selected in order to indicate the appropriate relationship between each paragraph.

Evidence or Examples

Evidence or examples are the words, ideas and facts borrowed from the sources that have been consulted during research. This borrowed material is used to strengthen the arguments in a more concrete way.

Only include source material that is related to the thesis of the paper.

- Evaluate the accuracy, credibility and relevance of your sources by applying critical thinking skills.
- Develop your own information management system to organize the information that you have gathered.

Do not use the words or ideas of another author without indicating their source—that would be plagiarism.

- Cite your sources by providing a reference for every quotation, paraphrase and summary.
- Update the bibliography on a regular basis to keep track of all your sources.

Structure of the Body

Body

- ↳ Thesis
 - ↳ Main Idea 1
 - ↳ Supporting Idea 1.1
 - ↳ Supporting Idea 1.2
 - ↳ Main Idea 2
 - ↳ Supporting Idea 2.1
 - ↳ Supporting Idea 2.2
 - ↳ Main Idea 3
 - ↳ Supporting Idea 3.1
 - ↳ Supporting Idea 3.2

Structure of the Paragraphs

Paragraph

- ↳ Transition
- ↳ Topic Sentence (Main Idea)
- ↳ Argument (Supporting Idea)
- ↳ Evidence or Example (Source Material)
- ↳ Wrap-Up Sentence (Review)
- ↳ Transition

BODY

Example

▼ Part 1: Introduction

Context: Effects of the destruction of the Ungolu rainforest

Thesis: Effects of the extinction of the red-tailed swallow

Outline: Human encroachment, ecosystem survival, possible solutions

■ Part 2: Body

Idea 1: Human encroachment (clear-cutting of the species' mating grounds)

It is important to mention that the extinction of the red-tailed swallow would not stop at the elimination of only one species. **Since the red-tailed swallow is a vital part of the Ungolu rainforest's ecosystem, its absence would affect the entire forest.** For instance, this bird is the only insectivorous predator in the region that has a beak suitable for digging corkscrew beetles out of the bark of a tree, hence it is the only major predator that controls the insect's population (Andrews, 2010). However, its numbers have already begun to grow dramatically in Ungolu (Steeves, 2008), and numerous studies point to the correlation between the rise in the corkscrew beetle population and the drop in the red-tailed swallow population. We can therefore assume that, without the red-tailed swallow, the corkscrew beetle will reproduce unchecked and destroy the Ungolu rainforest, along with the ecology that it supports. Indeed, the corkscrew beetle "is strictly herbivorous—it bores into trees and consumes them from the inside out. Multiple beetles can live in and feed off the same tree, killing it in less than three weeks before moving to the next." (Smith, 2010, p. 43) The short timeframe of this damage would not allow the dead trees to be replaced in time to save the rainforest and the wildlife that depends on it. Therefore, the presence of the red-tailed swallow is invaluable.

Idea 3: Possible solutions (local initiatives)

▲ Part 3: Conclusion

Summary: Human encroachment, ecosystem survival, possible solutions

Final Thought: Influence of northern countries