Outlining and the PEA method

PEA
=
Point

Evidence

Analysis

The PEA method is a simple formula for **paragraph development** in your paper.

You can use this method to draft or to create an **outline.**

Formula 1: Detailed paragraph development

- Topic sentence (which supports an aspect of the thesis)
  - **Point** (which supports the topic sentence)
    - **Evidence** (of the point's correctness)
    - **Analysis** (of how the evidence proves the point's correctness)
  - **Point**
    - **Evidence**
    - **Analysis**
  - **Point**
    - **Evidence**
    - **Analysis**
- Concluding sentence (which summarizes the topic of the body paragraph and identifies how the topic has supported the thesis statement)

Formula 2: Straightforward paragraph development

Not every paragraph (or section) requires three points. In some case, you could also think of the topic sentence itself as the Point, and then alternate Evidence and Analysis throughout the paragraph:

- Topic sentence/**Point**
    - **Evidence**
    - **Analysis**
    - **Evidence**
    - **Analysis**
    - **Evidence**
    - **Analysis**
- Concluding sentence

Formula 3: Long papers

If your paper is longer, you may also use the PEA method to differentiate paragraph purpose.

- Paragraph 1:
    - Topic sentence/**Point**
    - **Evidence**
    - **Evidence**
    - **Evidence**
    - **Evidence**
- Paragraph 2:
    - **Analysis**
    - **Analysis**
    - **Analysis**

- o **Analysis**
- o Concluding sentence that re-emphasizes the **point**

Formula 4: Literature reviews

If you are writing a literature review, you may use the PEA method to differentiate section purpose.

- Introduction, which conveys the **point** (main idea or findings) of the paper
- Section 1: Methods (how you conducted the research)
- Section 2: Results (the **evidence** found in your review of the research)
- Section 3: Discussion (your **analysis** or interpretation of the research findings)
- Section 4: Recommendations and/or Conclusion (includes a re-emphasis of the **point**)