

ORGANIZATION:

Advice for arranging your paper

Thinking about the way your paper is structured can help guide your audience through your reasoning process, offer a clear explanation of each argued point, and helps demonstrate your credibility.

EFFECTIVELY ORGANIZING YOUR ARGUMENT

Arrange your argument in a way that makes sense to your reader.

One way to do this is with the **Toulmin Method**:

- **Claim:** Your overall thesis
- **Data:** Your evidence from the text or research
- **Warrant:** Your analysis. How or why your data supports your claim
- **Backing:** Additional analysis you may include to support your claim

ELEMENTS OF A PARAGRAPH

Unity: the entire paragraph should have a single focus, or main point.

Transitions: one or several sentences that help the reader understand the flow of one idea to the next. Use them at the end and beginning of paragraphs

The basic rule: Keep one idea to one paragraph.

ORGANIZING YOUR PAPER

Typically, argumentative papers follow a similar outline to the one below:

1. Title
2. Introduction
 - a. Thesis
3. Body Paragraphs
 - a. Topic sentence
 - b. Building Main Points
 - c. Evidence from the Text
 - d. Analysis of the Evidence
 - e. Concluding Sentence
4. Conclusion

WHEN TO BEGIN A NEW PARAGRAPH

- When you are ending your introduction or starting your conclusion.

- When you begin a new idea or point.

If you have an extended idea that spans multiple paragraphs, each new point within that idea should have its own paragraph.

- Separate paragraphs can also serve to contrast ideas in your argument.