

# Writer's Block

## Body Paragraphs

# Writing the Body

- Purpose is to Interpret the evidence
- Connect the facts to the conclusion so that the audience understands your thinking
- Use **original** thinking

# Sample Body Paragraph

- Prompt: To what extent and in what ways did European powers develop different patterns of colonization in N. America? Support your answer with specific and relevant historical information from the period 1607 to 1754.
- If a topic of argumentation was... different forms of interaction with Native Americans
- And the (incomplete) thesis was European colonial powers developed markedly different patterns of colonization



# Sample body paragraph

That European colonization in North America between 1607 and 1754 resulted in varied patterns of colonization is evident in the multiple different forms of interaction with Native Americans.

The initial Spanish efforts to build colonies also enslaved natives through the encomienda system, which was so gruesome oftentimes that it became the basis of the “Black Legend.” Other European powers, informed of Spain’s colonial policies and actions by writers such as De las Casas, argued they were justified in seizing American territory as they were “defending” Native Americans from Spanish colonization. Later Spanish relations with Native Americans were less contentious, as evidenced by the mestizo culture of mixed-race families, but religion continued to be a flash point of conflict, with the Pueblo rebellion led by Pope in what became New Mexico as a typical example. These Spanish colonial patterns can be most clearly contrasted with those of France, which had positive relations with Native Americans, due to an emphasis on mutually beneficial trade and the less aggressive missionary system of French Jesuit priests. French settlers lived and worked alongside Native Americans. In contrast, English colonization efforts created diverse results in Native American relations, but conflict was common over questions of land use as the English settled to accumulate land in private ownership.

These three main colonial powers all had some degree of conflict with Native Americans in North America, but they ultimately had diverse relations and systems of power.

## Topic Sentence

You don’t need to be creative with phrasing.

## Evidence & Argument

Mix of SFI and connecting to trends

## Summary

Linking back to thesis

# Body Paragraph Guide

- Does it have a topic statement?
- Does it examine a particular piece of evidence? (historical fact or document)
- Does it analyze the evidence? (explain, provide context and express significance)
- Does it make a clear, explicit connection between the evidence and the conclusion drawn in the thesis statement?
- Does it make connections between the evidence/conclusion and outside information? (something from another place or time)
- Overall, how effective is the paragraph at supporting the conclusions of the thesis?

# Check for clarity

- Use the “so what?” method to check for missing links or connections
- Ask yourself if someone else could explain your **thinking**