

Using P. I. E.

P. I. E. No, it is not a dessert. It is a way structuring your paragraphs so that you stay on topic and support your argument, not just meet your word count. Use P.I.E. to bring your ideas together.

P = Point. A point sentence gives direction. In other words, what are you trying to say? Be specific. Example:

- While many students believe they work best under pressure, procrastination actually lowers grade point averages.

I = Illustration. The illustration supports the point. Be sure to cite it correctly, and make sure it backs up your point. An illustration can be a fact, a quote, or a short story. This example is a quote by Wayne Gretzky, found at brainyquote.com:

- “Procrastination is one of the most common and deadliest of diseases and its toll on success and happiness is heavy” (Gretzky).

E = Explanation. The explanation sentence wraps it all up. Without this, the reader is left hanging, without any real idea of why you chose the quote or fact that you used. To write an explanation sentence, you will need to make sure your point and illustration are connected not only to each other but to the main point of your paragraph and, thus, to your thesis as well.

- Wayne Gretzky’s success as the greatest hockey player of our time came from persistently honing his incredible talent through practice, not by procrastinating and relying on that talent. Gretzky believes procrastination can cost even the most talented their success and happiness.