

TEXTUAL CITATIONS: THE BONES OF YOUR PET

1. Think of the body paragraph as your PET. (P= Point, E=Explanation, T=Textual Citation). It cannot stand up without its bones. The bones are underneath the skin, so they make the pet appear seamless. Your textual citations should be the same. Don't stand them alone or point them out so much that they are like broken bones sticking out of the skin. Use them as support for the beauty of your PETs. Make your body paragraphs as cute as a puppy.
2. Structure the body paragraphs with your
 - POINT (topic sentence),
 - EXPLANATION (Specifics about your point & Transition to evidence, context, and purpose for cited text),
 - TEXT (Evidence from the text worked into a sentence or two of your own crafting with parenthetical citation),
 - EXPLANATION [Commentary (without "this means" or "this refers to") explaining how evidence supports the thesis/whole that you are using in your paper and Significance of your POINT].

Here is an example of a Body Paragraph with Textual Citation. It places a P, E, or T after each sentence to show you what is being provided. It was written in response to this prompt:
In a well organized essay, briefly summarize the speaker's thoughts and analyze how the diction, imagery, and syntax help to convey his state of mind. (Use Edmund's soliloquy at the beginning of Act One, Scene Two in Shakespeare's King Lear.)

The cynical nature of Edmund's mind questions the customs of his society by first using telegraphic and short statements which lead to interrogatives concerning baseness. **(P)** His short and telegraphic statements call on nature, natural law, to be his "goddess" (I.i.I.1). **(P and T)** This apostrophe to nature allows him to use inductive reasoning. **(E)** He tries to take on nature as an ally by saying "To thy law/ My services are bound" (I.i.I.1-2). **(E and T)** His four consecutive questions from lines 2-15 ask why man would go against nature, which illustrates his belief that man's law is not nature's law. **(P)** The purpose of his questions are to activate contemplation and sympathy in the readers' minds by suggesting reasons why he should not be deprived and branded "with 'baseness,' 'bastardy,' 'base,' . . ." (I.i.I.10). **(E and T)** Edmund feels that being younger and illegitimate are not valid reasons for him being overlooked because his "dimensions are as well compact, [his] mind as generous and [his] shape as true" as Edgar's (I.i.I.7-8). **(E and T)** This comparative parallelism to the legitimate brother is enhanced by Edmund's claim that marriage beds create "fops" while passionate encounters create "fierce quality" (I.i.II.12 & 14). **(E and T)** Anyone who has ever been the underdog becomes enamored with Edmund's reasoning through syntactical questioning. **(Transition)** Obviously, Edmund's reasoning questions need to be answered. **(Transition)** His answer is a response to his questions of baseness and it also addresses the legitimate brother. **(P)** Edmund's malicious nature shines when he speaks to the absent Edgar with "I must have your land" (I.i.I.16) and "if . . . my invention thrive, Edmund the base/Shall top th' legitimate" (I.i.II. 19-21). **(T)** His brief digression in his answering statements finally gets to the heart of his attitude. **(P)** When he spouts "Fine word, 'legitimate'!" (I.i.I.18) his agitation shines. **(T)** The evilness of his cynical and malicious nature slips through his veiled reasoning making us believe his machination to topple Edgar is bona fide. **(E)**

Notice how the text is woven throughout to be seamless--No Bones Sticking Out!