

## Paragraph Complexity & Different Types of Paragraphs

**What argument strategies do you want to incorporate into your argument? What is your overall argument strategy? What do you want your argument to do? How would micro-level argument strategies support your overall argument strategy & Thesis assertion?**

Before adding complexity to a paragraph, you will want to determine what function you want it to perform: in other words, what do you want that paragraph to do? What strategy will it fulfill in your overall argument?

### Where can I add complexity to a paragraph within the paragraph?

To an *Assertion* that makes a claim to support your essay’s argument

To a *Transition Sentence* that that comes before you introduce any sources (i.e. to qualify, connect, contextualize, particularize, synthesize, complicate, or that introduces and/or connects the assertion to a citation (preferable a quotation you are citing as evidence)

To *Quotation Weaving* that imbeds the Cited Evidence into the paragraph (i.e. to connect the quotation to your own idea—and your own prose/sentence—in a more complex way than merely stating, “...as Foucault states, “...”.

To a *Transitional Sentence* that moves from cited evidence to explanation.

To *Explanation Sentences* that analyze evidence; in other words, your analysis won’t merely explain, but perform a more complex level of explanation, i.e. synthesis analysis, particularizing, differentiating, expansion or elaboration, connection, reflection, etc.

### What rhetorical strategies can I use to add complexity to an ACE paragraph? RSMs!

\**Agreeing* (with a difference): Discuss a common viewpoint you share—to a point—with a source

\**Disagreeing*: Distance yourself from a source who has weighed in on the issue you’re discussing

\**Agree & Disagree*: Add complexity by agreeing with 1 part of evidence, but disagreeing with another

*Definition*: Define a keyterm, an important concept, an unfamiliar term, a foreign word, etc.

*Illustration*: Give an example that helps to demonstrate an earlier point

*Elaboration*: Provide more information that extends or further develops your point.

*Explanation*: Explain the meaning of an idea, concept, term, etc.

\**Contradiction*: Raise an objection or counterargument that seems to go against your argument, and that you will refute or otherwise expose the limitations or oversights of (In *They Say, I Say*, Graff & Berkenstein refer to this strategy, “planting a naysayer in your text”)

*Qualification*: Limit the scope of your argument by explaining what you’re *not* saying

*Expansion*: Further explain or pursue a different angle on an earlier point

*Inquiry*: Ask a question raised by your topic that you will explore in that paragraph or in later paragraphs

*Introduction*: Introduce another point in the argument or reason to support the claim you are making.

*Particularize*: Make a general idea or claim more specific, or give a specific example.

*Synthesize*: Bring together two ideas or citations in order to compare them or produce new meaning

*Contextualization*: Connect your argument to other issues (i.e. gender, class, ethnicity, politics, etc.)

*Distinguish*: Demonstrate how an idea or claim differs from what you have already analyzed

*Reiteration*: repeat part of an earlier argument or keyword for emphasis or clarification

*Objection*: Raise an objection to an idea, claim or argument

*Hypothesize*: speculate or offer a supposition that you plan to prove or refute in the paragraph

\*The strategies preceded by asterisks are discussed in *They Say, I Say*.

## Can I combine strategies in a single paragraph?

While you want to write paragraphs that that perform at least ACE, you can add complexity to these paragraphs by incorporating any of the above rhetorical moves—depending on what strategy you wish to achieve. Additionally, there are some moves that go together so smoothly they create their own kind of paragraphs.

- 1) *Assertion + Citation + Explanation: A—C—E paragraphs involve the basic structural moves key in argument.*
- 2) *Declaration + Illustration + Elaboration (or Explanation):* This is another example of the classic academic A—C—E paragraph, however, the strategy has shades of difference (i.e. declaration implies a stronger stance or position, while elaboration implies extensive analysis)
- 3) *Contradiction + Declaration + Illustration—OR—Contradiction + Qualification + Illustration:* This the standard counterargument paragraph. This kind of paragraph refutes simple or obvious objections that don't require much set-up; more complex counterarguments will need to be strategized more carefully.
- 4) *Example + Contextualization + Illustration + Declaration/Assertion:* This strategy is useful for writing introductions. By first getting the reader's attention and establishing an overall context for your ideas, you explain why your specific observations about an issue or argument are worth thinking about (this is how you establish Motive in your essays).
- 5) *Expansion + Elaboration + Illustration:* introduces a paragraph that adds more information to support a claim made in the assertion of the previous paragraph. The ideas of the first paragraph are developed over two paragraph Proving the claim is, therefore, extended into a second paragraph.
- 6) *Contextualization + Declaration + Re-Contextualization or Expansion:* This strategy is useful for conclusions. Once you've already laid out your entire argument for the reader, you can use that momentum to point out the broader importance of your ideas, make one or two last points about the specific texts at hand, and add one final bit of contextualization to show what's at stake.

## What other kinds of paragraphs can I write?

Description paragraph	Synthesis paragraph
Counterargument paragraph	Refutation paragraph
Counterargument + Refutation paragraph	Example paragraph
Contextualization paragraph	Background (historical, etc.) paragraph
Comparison-Contrast paragraph	Juxtaposition paragraph
Parallel paragraph	Complication paragraph

## Adding Complexity To Essay 3 Paragraphs:

**I. Identify paragraphs in Research Essay #3 that you wish to add complexity to?**

**II. Identify paragraphs in Assignment #3 that you want to develop into particular kinds of paragraphs OR new paragraph that you wish to develop and where they might go?**