

Tip Sheet

Hamburger Writing Model Checklist

This is an example of a template which can be used to assist students with essay writing.

Introduction Paragraph (The Bun)

- 1. Lead** in idea. It needs to focus on key words / topics of the question
 - definition
 - history of topic
 - current status
 - interesting facts
- 2. Answer** the essay question – say what you think
- 3. List** the “ingredients” of your essay. In this section you would list your three reasons or main points (with no elaboration).

Reason Paragraph #1 (The Lettuce)

- 1. Topic sentence** – a mini introduction that says how this part of your argument (this ingredient) is connected to the overall question.
- 2. Explanation** – this is the fattest part of your paragraph where you have to clearly explain how your idea answers the question you are writing about. It can have many sentences but they must stay on the same topic.
- 3. Example** – here you insert an example to support your idea. It can be from your own experience, someone else’s life, from a book or even a movie.
- 4. Round off** – a mini conclusion that says what you think about the question and once again tells the reader why this particular idea (this ingredient) proves it.

Reason Paragraph #2 (The Cheese)

- 1. Topic sentence** – a mini introduction that says how this part of your argument (this ingredient) is connected to the overall question.
- 2. Explanation** – this is the fattest part of your paragraph where you have to clearly explain how your idea answers the question you are writing about. It can have many sentences but they must stay on the same topic.
- 3. Example** – here you insert an example to support your idea. It can be from your own experience, someone else’s life, from a book or even a movie.
- 4. Round off** – a mini conclusion that says what you think about the question and once again tells the reader why this particular idea (this ingredient) proves it.

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Hamburger Writing Model Checklist (continued)**Reason Paragraph #3 (The Meat)**

- 1. Topic sentence** – a mini introduction that says how this part of your argument (this ingredient) is connected to the overall question.
- 2. Explanation** – this is the fattest part of your paragraph where you have to clearly explain how your idea answers the question you are writing about. It can have many sentences but they must stay on the same topic.
- 3. Example** – here you insert an example to support your idea. It can be from your own experience, someone else's life, from a book or even a movie.
- 4. Round off** – a mini conclusion that says what you think about the question and once again tells the reader why this particular idea (this ingredient) proves it.

Conclusion Paragraph (The Bun)

- 1. Answer** the essay question once again
- 2. Summarise** the most important points again – a bit like you did when listing the ingredients
- 3. Lead out** – say something interesting as you lead out from the topic

Information regarding the Hamburger Model, by courtesy of Jenny Baker, Speech Pathologist.

