MEET MEL

MEL stands for Main Idea, Evidence, Link

The writing process involves prewriting, composing, evaluating, revising, and finally editing. MEL is simply an EASY way for you to remember the important steps of writing a strong BODY PARAGRAPH – on any topic!!

M - Main Idea (your argument or claim)

This is what you intend to prove in your paragraph stated in a very **direct** and concise way. (keep it simple!!)

- Should answer question posed in one sentence—rearranging
- Should NOT start in "yes" or "no" (even though you are answering a question!)
- Should state the response in one sentence using words such as DOES or DOES NOT
- Should NOT end in a colon
- Should not be wordy

E - Evidence (example)

This is how you will prove your Main Idea. Use "One time" examples, facts, reasons or quotes to prove the point you have stated you will prove – in other words, be specific! Be complete! Stick to your point! You must also make certain that this information moves along smoothly with **TRANSITIONS.** (See additional list!)

- Should always be prefaced by a *transition*
- Should prove only the main idea – nothing else
- Should use information observed or measured (by your or someone else.) ** QUOTES would fit in this category!
- Should not be choppy
- Should not ignore important evidence which could disprove main idea
- Define words that are not clear

L -Link (explanation)

This explains what your evidence has proven about your MAIN IDEA in one concise sentence (or two) and/or the Link is where you tell your reader what you have learned about writing this paragraph.

- Should answer the question WHY
- Could move the reader *beyond* the main idea
- Should not repeat main idea word-for-word.

CON – Conclusion (wrap-up!) The last sentence of the paragraph should be a conclusion; a sentence that wraps everything up and gives your paragraph closure. This should once again stress (but reword) your first claim or main idea.

- Should summarize information presented in paragraph
- Should restate main idea
- Should begin with a transition
- Should not oppose what you have already stated.

English
MEL-CON

EXAMPLE MEL-CON Paragraph (Underlined phrase = transition)

M
E
L
E
L
E
L
CON

> **M The best hour of the day is third block, lunch!** E <u>To begin with,</u> it's the only time I get to talk with my friends. L Spending time with my friends is so important because it helps me relax and cope with the day.   E <u>Additionally,</u> I'm hungry by 4th hour and need food! L Without lunch, I would not be able to concentrate in my afternoon classes. E <u>Third and even more importantly,</u> I get to eat my favorite foods! L I look forward to eating my skittles first; if I had to eat broccoli, lunch wouldn't be as enjoyable. Con **In conclusion, no one can argue that any hour is better than lunch!**

MEL-CON PARAGRAPHS
A Graphic Organizer to help you write the best paragraphs possible

M = Main Idea (topic sentence)	**L = Links** (<u>Your</u> explanation of how the example links to or supports the main idea)
E = Evidence / Example (facts)	**Con = Concluding Statement** (recap / summary)

Indent →

_____

_____

M
Topic
Sentence

(insert transition to 1st example here)

_____

E --First
Example
or
Evidence

_____   .

_____

L--Link to
topic
(Explain)

(insert transition to 2nd example)

_____

E --First
Example
or
Evidence

_____

L—Link
to topic
(Explain)

(insert transition to 3rd example)

_____

E --First
Example
or
Evidence

_____

L—Link
to topic
(Explain)

(insert transition to conclusion)

_____

Con
Concluding
Statement

_____

RECAP your
3 examples

English
MEL-CON

TRANSITIONS are used to separate examples within paragraphs and to separate paragraphs. **These are only some generic examples. Transitions can be more specialized around your own topic as well.**
EXAMPLE: You are writing a paper on the "NO HAT POLICY" You can "CUSTOMIZE" your transitions like this: A good first example of the hat policy in action was when…

FIRST (to replace the overused "first")

- One good example is
- An interesting fact is
- First of all
- Initially
- One piece of evidence that points to this is
- It is important to note that
- The first good piece of evidence is
- One way to look at this is through
- One example that proves this is
- One example that suggests this is
- There are several examples that show this and one of them is
- First and foremost
- A good first example of this is
- It is important to first note that
- One notable example is
- The first indication of this is
- To begin with
- When looking over the evidence, it is clear that the first…
- One reason is
- One way this is true is
- In the beginning
- On one hand, there is
- A great example is
- One example that stands out is
- Probably the best example to begin (start) with is
- The best place to start is with
- This can first be seen when
- For example
- For instance
- The first instance that comes to mind is when…
- This can be clearly seen first of all when…

SECOND (to replace the overused "second")

- Another good example is
- Another interesting fact is
- Second of all
- Secondly
- Furthermore
- A great second example is
- Another good piece of evidence is
- Another way to look at this is through
- Another example that proves this is
- Another example that suggests this is
- Another great example that helps support this is
- Second and even more importantly
- The second good example is
- Yet another good reason (example) is
- Yet another piece of evidence is
- Another indication of this is
- Still
- Even so
- In the same way
- Next
- The next example (idea, reason, piece of evidence)
- On the other hand, there is
- Even more compelling is
- Another example that stands out is
- Similarly
- Likewise
- Along with that, there is
- Moreover
- In addition
- Adding to that
- In addition to that
- Still another great example is
- Then again, another stronger example is
- Of course
- Also
- In the same light
- Even more interesting is
- Adding to the first example is
- Making an even stronger case is
- An even better example of this is
- Equally as interesting was
- While the first example is good, an even better one is
- To add even more fuel to the fire
- To add another even more interesting fact
- An additional fact is

THIRD or FINAL (to replace the overused "third" and "finally")

- A final example (fact, reason)
- And finally
- Lastly
- Last of all
- A final great example is
- The third and final example is
- The final good piece of evidence is
- The best way to look at this is through
- The final example that proves this is
- The last example that suggest this is
- The last (final) example that helps support this is
- Third and even more importantly
- The third good example is
- Yet the best reason (example) is
- Yet the best piece of evidence is
- The last (final) indication of this is
- Most compelling is
- Even so
- The best and final reason is
- On top of that
- The last example (idea, reason, piece of evidence)
- Best of all
- The final example to note
- The last example that stands out is
- Most importantly
- Accordingly
- Along with the first two examples, there is
- Moreover
- In addition to the first two
- Adding to those
- In addition to those
- Still another great example is
- Then again, the strongest example is
- Of course
- But most conclusive is
- In the same light
- A perfect final reason (example, fact) is
- Adding to the first two examples is
- Making an even stronger case is
- An even better example of this is
- The last place this can be seen is when
- While the first two examples are good, an even better one is
- To add even more fuel to the fire
- To add a final, even more interesting fact
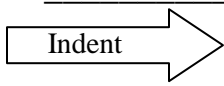- A good way to really show this is true is

IN CONCLUSION (the "CON" part of MEL-CON) (to replace the overused "in conclusion" or "all in all" at the end of a paragraph)

- So, it is clear to see that
- Summing this whole thing up
- Accordingly
- In summary
- Consequently
- Thus
- As a result
- In short
- Therefore
- So
- The evidence clearly points
- All of this together means
- Put is all together and
- The best way to sum it up is
- With all of this
- The thee examples,………., prove that….
- And so therefore
- For all of these reasons, ………, one can see that……
- This all adds up to one conclusion
- So, when studying all of the reasons
- With all of this in mind
- Due to all of these reasons
- Together
- One can see that
- The evidence is clear
- No one can argue that
- And so it is
- Yes, it is evident that
- Truly
- To reemphasize
- To repeat
- Again
- Indeed
- Of course
- There is no doubt that
- There is no argument that
- With all of these examples
- In total
- When looking at all of the possibilities
- Clearly
- Yes, it is true then

English
MEL-CON

MEL-CON PARAGRAPHS
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Indent ⟹

M
Topic
Sentence

(transition to 1ˢᵗ example)

E
First
Example
or
Evidence

L
Link to
topic
(Explain)

(transition to 2ⁿᵈ example)

E
First
Example
or
evidence

L
Link to
topic
(Explain)

(transition to 3ʳᵈ example)

E
First
Example
or
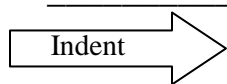Evidence

L
Link to
topic
(Explain)

(transition to conclusion)

Con
Concluding
Statement
RECAP your
3 examples

MEL-CON PARAGRAPHS
A Graphic Organizer to help you write the best paragraphs possible

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                                              to or supports the main idea)
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Indent →

M
Topic
Sentence

(transition to 1st example)

E
First
Example
or
Evidence

L
Link to
topic
(Explain)

(transition to 2nd example)

E
First
Example
or
evidence

L
Link to
topic
(Explain)

(transition to 3rd example)

E
First
Example
or
Evidence

L
Link to
topic
(Explain)

(transition to conclusion)

Con
Concluding
Statement

RECAP your
3
examples