

Setting up paragraphs (think of them as being mini essays...they have an intro, a body, and a conclusion)

Introduction – this part should be preparing the reader for what you'll be analyzing next. It should be your words and not a quote.

Body – here is the data or evidence to be analyzed from your readings. If it is a direct quote, make sure to have quotations marks around it. Or you can paraphrase, which means to take this data and put what you think the meaning is in your own words. In both cases you need a citation, otherwise you're plagiarizing.

Conclusion – your analysis of the data is here and should be your words.

Example from Student Paper

According to the textbook, American Government, American views on free speech and free press are based on the views of 18th century English Jurist W. Blackstone. In the Commentaries on the Laws of England, Blackstone wrote "The liberty of the press is indeed essential to the nature of a free state: but this consists in laying no previous restraints upon publications, and not in freedom from censure for criminal matter when published" (Powe, Jr., 1991). When the government tried to suppress the publication of the Pentagon Papers by the New York Times and other media outlets, the Supreme Court confirmed the press cannot be prohibited from publishing material unless the material is banned by Congressional legislation. Once published, the media can be sued if the material is libelous or obscene or if it entices someone to commit an illegal act: however, convictions are difficult as all three have narrow definitions (Freedom, n.d.). Looking at Wikileaks, it is clear the material is not obscene. Although Assange did say "In some instances this had had a rightfully destabilizing effect... but this is a byproduct of our larger aim... if the truth we reveal mobilizes people to react against illegitimate government then this is their choice... how the people chose to react to what they discover about their governments is up to them," this cannot be considered falling under the third reason; it is not necessarily enticing illegal acts but could entice perfectly legal ones, such as peaceful protests or simply switching one's vote (Wikileaks goal, 2011). Their material, the leaks, are obviously not libel as they are true- there would not be national security implications if all the information published was false.