



## Body Paragraphs

By now you have a claim, some amount of reasoning, a little bit of information, and you may be trying to figure out how to put it all together. That's why we're going to start not with the introduction (which we'll get to), but, rather, with the body paragraphs. This will make up the bulk of both your first draft and your eventual final draft.

1. First, start with one of your **reasons**. This is, in a sense, your topic sentence for the paragraph.

Alcohol leads to aggressive behavior such as fights, spectators running on the field, and other erratic behaviors.

2. Then, add some **evidence (don't be afraid to put two pieces here)**:

Alcohol played a major part in the near-death beating of San Francisco Giants fan Bryan Stow at a Giants-Los Angeles Dodgers game. "Dodger Stadium got to a place where it was a total mess," Stow's attorney, Tom Girardi, told jurors during the monthlong trial. "There was a culture of violence. Beer sales were off the charts." Stow, too, was intoxicated and exhibiting poor judgement, according to Girardi, relating a witness account of him yelling at Dodger fans in the parking lot and citing testimony that his blood alcohol level was 0.18 percent - more than double the legal limit for driving (Petchesky).

3. This is one place you can put a **counterclaim** (there are two forms of organization that we'll discuss later):

Many would argue fans have the right to consume alcohol if they so choose, provided that they are not breaking the law and are drinking with moderation, not driving under the influence or drinking under age.

4. Finally, wrap your paragraph up with a **rebuttal** and a sentence that **re-affirms the topic sentence**.

Drinking with moderation does not seem to be the norm. Of the 18 percent of fans who tailgated before games in 2015, a whopping 82 percent had two or more drinks, while only 8 percent did not drink (Baker). In another survey given by the researchers after administering a breathalyzer test, one in four tailgaters owned up to downing at least five alcoholic beverages, with those in the highest BAC (blood alcohol content) range knocking back an average of 6.6 drinks (Malinowski). With no signs of fans slowing down their drinking, we can reasonably expect more violence and erratic behavior in the stands as long as alcohol is served.

**This is what it looks like all put together with appropriate transitions:**

The most visible reason to ban alcohol at sporting events is that alcohol leads to aggressive behavior such as fights, spectators running on the field, and other erratic behaviors. In one of the more infamous recent events, alcohol played a major part in the near-death beating of San Francisco Giants fan Bryan Stow at a Giants-Los Angeles Dodgers game in 2011. "Dodger Stadium got to a place where it was a total mess," Stow's attorney, Tom Girardi, told jurors during the monthlong trial. "There was a culture of violence. Beer sales were off the charts." Stow, too, was intoxicated and exhibited poor judgement, according to Girardi, relating a witness account of him yelling at Dodger fans in the parking lot and citing testimony that his blood alcohol level was 0.18 percent - more than double the legal limit for driving (Petchesky). Many, of course, would argue fans have the right to consume alcohol if they so choose, provided that they are not breaking the law and are drinking with moderation, not driving under the influence, or drinking under age. Drinking with moderation, however, does not seem to be the norm. Of the 18 percent of fans who tailgated before games in 2015, a whopping 82 percent had two or more drinks, while only 8 percent did not drink (Baker). In another survey given by the researchers after administering a breathalyzer test, one in four tailgaters owned up to downing at least five alcoholic beverages, with those in the highest BAC (blood alcohol content) range knocking back an average of 6.6 drinks (Malinowski). With no signs of fans slowing down their drinking, we can reasonably expect more violence and erratic behavior in the stands as long as alcohol is served.

**Now, your turn:**

**Reason or topic sentence:**

**Evidence (one or two compelling pieces):**

1.

2.

**Counterclaim:**

**Rebuttal (there should have evidence here, too) and wrap-up sentence:**