**Get Your S.E.X.Y. On**

(I’m talking about a tight PARAgraph, not a tight PAIRApants)

Follow this fun little pneumonic to make sure that you cram all the informative goodness you need into BOTH your written responses AND your essay paragraphs ☺

A SEXY paragraph is **structured as follows:**

**S**tatement **E**xplanation e**X**ample(s) wh**Y** is it important?



**S** 🡪 State your point

**E** 🡪 Explain your point in detail

**X** 🡪 Give an example/examples to support your point

**Y** 🡪 Why did you make this point?

**Here, let me break it down for you:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S** | **Statement.**  Begin with a statement (a sentence or two) describing the main idea of the paragraph. | Cats are the best house pets because they make great companions and they require minimal care. |
| **E** | **Explanation.**  Explain your statement in more detail. Expand, elaborate, develop, and clarify. | Pets of the feline variety often greet their owners at the door, curl up beside them after a long day, and offer verbal affection in the form of purring. They also have a great texture. In addition to being friendly and furry, cats do not have to be let outside to urinate and can be left alone for extended periods of time. |
| **X** | **Example.**  Give an example (evidence) from the text you are studying, or from research, that supports your main idea. Use paraphrasing or quotations, and cite the author! | In her autobiography, veteran cat owner Lori Hammond states: “I’ve cared for 37 cats in my lifetime, and each has brought me a little piece of happiness at a very low cost to my social life.” Her neighbor, a professional breeder of hairless cats who prefers not to be named, agrees. |
| **Y** | **Why?**  Explain why your example is relevant to your topic/thesis/question **AND/OR** why your point is significant or meaningful (this is sometimes a great place to make a text-text, text-self, text-world connection). | While cats certainly seem to be a favorite of several experts, including Ms. Hammond and her neighbor, one certainly does not have to be a cat connoisseur to enjoy friends of the feline variety. With their charming personalities and independent attitudes, cats have the attributes necessary to please a wide variety of potential pet owners. |

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Your turn!** Fill in this sexy little organizer to practice creating a SEXY paragraph ☺

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| --- | --- | --- |
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| **X** | **Example.**  Give an example (evidence) from the text you are studying, or from research, that supports your main idea. Use paraphrasing or quotations, and cite the author! |  |
| **Y** | **Why?**  Explain why your example is relevant to your topic/thesis/question  **AND/OR**  why your point is significant or meaningful (this is sometimes a great place to make a text-text, text-self, text-world connection). |  |