

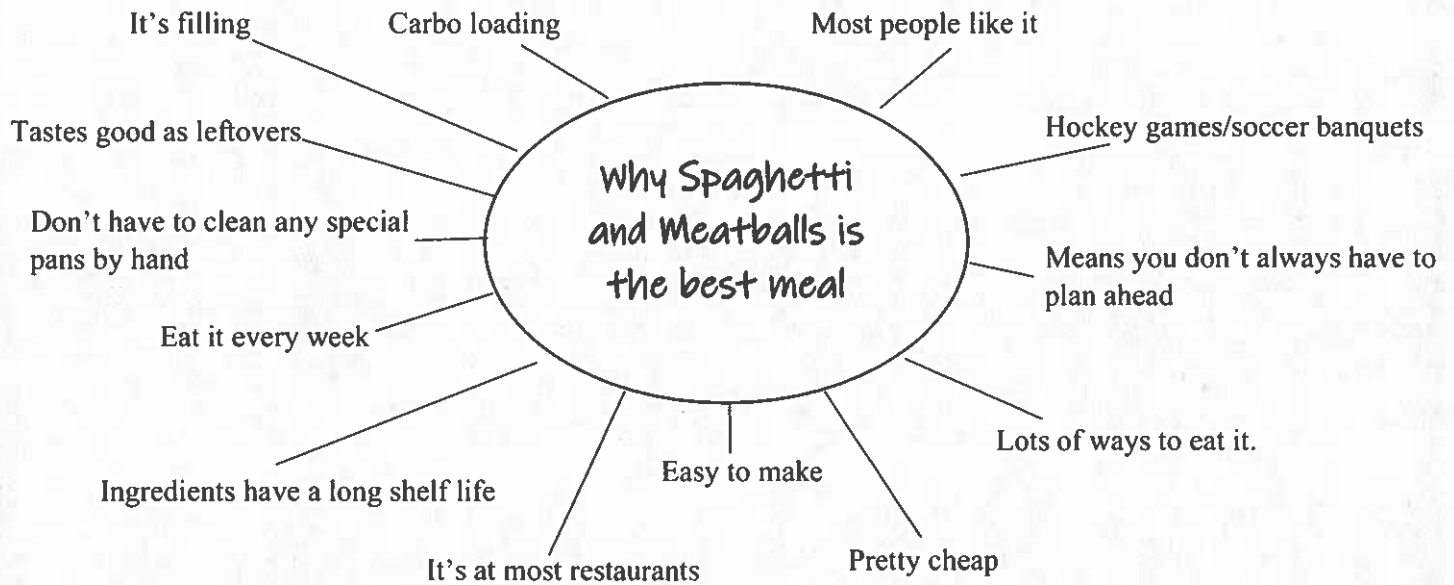
The Writing Process:

Drafting an Essay from Beginning to End

This Packet Includes:

- **Brainstorming and Idea Mapping**
- **Organizing Ideas into an Outline**
- **Creating a Thesis**
- **Introductions**
- **Elements of a Body Paragraph**
- **Body Paragraph Specifics**
- **Conclusions**
- **Final Draft of Essay in MLA Format**

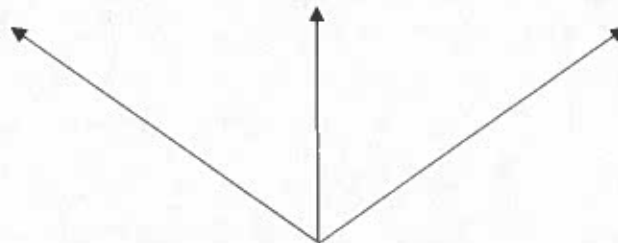
TURNING BRAINSTORMING INTO BODY PARAGRAPHS



Now group those ideas into categories that might go well together like below



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy to make• Long shelf life• No planning ahead• Easy to clean up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most people like it• Lots of ways to eat it• At most restaurants• Hockey banquets• Left overs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It's cheap• Feeds lots of people• banquets
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These become your body paragraphs!

CREATING AN OUTLINE

Now take the ideas from brainstorming and start making them into an outline of your paper. This will serve as a guide or map while you write your essay. Begin body paragraphs with your topic sentence and then add the examples, explanations, information, data, quotes, stories, etc. below in the order that you'll use them.

Thesis Statement:

Spaghetti and meatballs is the best meal because it's fast, well loved, and inexpensive.

1st Body Paragraph Topic: It's fast to make

- Topic Sentence: One of the best aspects of spaghetti and meatballs is that it's so fast to make.
- Examples, explanations, info, data, quotes, stories, etc.:
 - How long it takes to make each part of the meal
 - Spaghetti, sauce, meatballs, bread
 - Setting the table

2nd Body Paragraph Topic: Crowd Pleaser

- Topic Sentence: As well as being quick, this meal is also a crowd pleaser.
- Examples, explanations, info, data, quotes, stories, etc.:
 - Statistic about 9/10 people being happy to eat it.
 - Picky eaters
 - Different ways to eat the meal
 - Vegetarian, Buttered noodles, Meatball sub
 - Memories from banquets and holidays

3rd Body Paragraph Topic: It's cheap

- Topic Sentence: Finally, one of the most important reasons why spaghetti and meatballs is such a good meal is because it is so inexpensive to make at home for large groups.
- Examples, explanations, info, data, quotes, stories, etc.:
 - Cost of ingredients
 - Spaghetti, Meatballs, Pasta
 - Statistics about price of the same meal at a restaurant

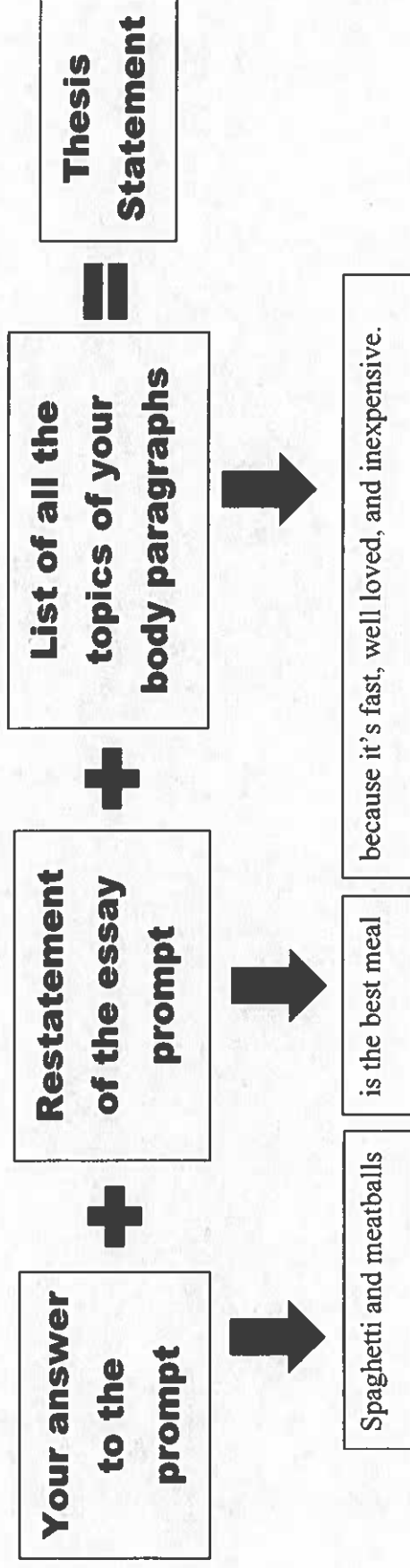
Rephrasing of Thesis: For a quick, cheap meal that everyone can agree on, there is no better option than spaghetti and meatballs.

Thesis Statements

A basic thesis has three important parts: restating the prompt of the essay, your answer to the prompt, and the topics of your body paragraphs. They can be written in any order that makes sense, but all three parts should be present.

Essay Prompt: *Everybody likes different meals. In your opinion, what is the best meal to make and why?*

Spaghetti and meatballs is the best meal because it's fast, well loved, and inexpensive.



Other ways this thesis statement could be written:

- The best meal to cook is the Italian classic spaghetti and meatballs because it's fast, well loved, and inexpensive.
- The fast, well loved, and inexpensive classic spaghetti and meatballs is by far the best meal to make for dinner.
- Because it's so well loved, inexpensive, and quick to make, spaghetti and meatballs, the iconic Italian dish, is the best meal.

INTRODUCTION

When your kid asks if their soccer team can come over for dinner, or it's your turn to host the book club's monthly gathering, or you're having co-workers over to celebrate a recent business venture, choosing what to make for dinner can be tricky. Should you pick a lavish meal with many courses? Or something light and healthy? Deciding between the millions of options and what people will actually eat (and what you can afford), there's one tried and true classic that always delivers: spaghetti and meatballs. Because it's fast, well-loved, and inexpensive, spaghetti and meatballs is the best meal for a crowd.

Grabs the reader's attention and draw them in with a broad, general statement about your topic.

HOOK

When your kid asks if their soccer team can come over for dinner, or it's your turn to host the book club's monthly gathering, or you're having co-workers over to celebrate a recent business venture, choosing what to make for dinner can be tricky. Should you pick a lavish meal with many courses? Or something light and healthy?

The topic of the essay + the claim you are making and proving in the essay.

THESIS

This part of the Bridge connects to the Thesis

there's one tried and true classic that always delivers: spaghetti and meatballs.

This part of the Bridge connects to the Hook

Deciding between the millions of options and what people will actually eat (and what you can afford),

Because it's fast, well-loved, and inexpensive, spaghetti and meatballs is the best meal for a crowd.

BRIDGE

Connect your broad Hook with your specific Thesis by starting to add more specific information.

This is a great place to add basic information that's necessary for the reader to understand the essay, like naming the story you are writing about.

ELEMENTS OF A BODY PARAGRAPH

Topic Sentence

The first sentence of the paragraph, and it summarizes the main idea of the paragraph.

Background Information/Context

Not all body paragraphs need this section. If you are writing about a story, film, news story, or about a topic that isn't general knowledge, explain what information the reader will need to know about it for your evidence to make sense. This might include important definitions, character names, storylines or important plot points. Remember, you must write as if your reader doesn't know anything about your topic and you have to give them all the information they need to understand your arguments.

Supporting Evidence

Prove what you claimed in your topic sentence with evidence from the text you are working with or sources knowledgeable about the subject. Evidence can be examples, stories, quotes, statistics, data, or more.

Analysis of Evidence

After evidence is provided, write about why that evidence matters to your argument. Why does it prove your point? Make connections between your argument and your evidence.

Repeat *Context, Supporting Evidence, and Analysis* as many times as you need to support your argument

Wrapping up Sentence/Lead into new idea

Conclude your paragraph with a mini summary or closing statements to wrap up your idea and show that you are finished with this topic and are moving on to another. Transition words are key here!

BODY PARAGRAPHS

Body paragraphs are the meat of the essay. It's where you prove your points and provide evidence of your perspective. **Body paragraphs always have a clear topic, supporting evidence, and, when necessary, analysis of that evidence.**

A Clear Topic

Every body paragraph has its own topic. Your topics should already be listed in your thesis statement, and each of those will become their own paragraphs. These paragraphs always start with a topic sentence.

The topic sentence is the first sentence and it is the basis of what the whole paragraph is going to be about. Example from the essay:

One of the best aspects of spaghetti and meatballs is that it's so fast to make.

Every other sentence in that paragraph should be related to your topic sentence. For example, if the paragraph is about how fast it is to make spaghetti and meatballs, *every* sentence in the paragraph needs to be about TIME, not taste or preference or where the ingredients were purchased—only about TIME. If the paragraph is about how much it costs to make spaghetti and meatballs, every sentence should be about COST—not taste, not time it takes. The paragraph below has all TIME related words highlighted to show that each sentence is on topic.

One of the best aspects of spaghetti and meatballs is that [REDACTED]. If preparing the meal in alignment with modern life using boxed pasta, jarred sauce, and frozen meatballs, the whole meal can be table-ready in [REDACTED]. Pasta cooks in [REDACTED], jarred sauce can be heated [REDACTED], and the meatballs can be cooked in the oven [REDACTED]. If the chef [REDACTED], they will even be able to set the table and slice up some bread [REDACTED] the oven timer rings and the pasta needs to be drained. With ingredients that are so widely available and simple to cook, making spaghetti and meatballs can be one of [REDACTED] prepared in the week.

Supporting Evidence

In order to write a strong body paragraph, you must support your claim. **Whatever you claimed to be true in your topic sentence must now be proven with evidence.** This can be done with examples, stories, quotes, statistics, or data. Anything that proves your claim is your evidence. The strongest paragraphs have more than one piece of evidence.

The paragraph below has 3 pieces of evidence. The first (data from a survey) is highlighted, the second (examples) is underlined, and the third (examples of stories) is in italics.

Body Paragraph Two

As well as being quick, this meal is also a crowd pleaser. [REDACTED]

nine out of ten people are happy to hear that spaghetti and meatballs is being served

[REDACTED] With the ingredients of the meal being so basic, there's always some part of the meal to please even the pickiest eaters. Those who don't like sauce can opt for buttered noodles. Vegetarian? Skip the meatballs. Love cheese? Pour on the parmesan! Rather have a meatball sub? Loose the pasta and put the meatballs on the bread. There are more options that one might initially think when serving spaghetti and meatballs. *In addition to being so versatile, pasta dishes can often invoke a feeling of nostalgia for many people. Memories of family dinners with grandparents and cousins, banquet halls celebrating the end of a sporting season, and fighting over who would get that last meatball—this common family meal can bring back the joys of childhood for many.*

Analysis of Evidence

At times, even though it seems like the evidence you've provided speaks for itself, it often doesn't to the reader. *Part of your job is to provide analysis of that evidence so your reader will draw the same conclusions that you have.* **After you've added a quote or specific form of evidence, write about why that evidence matters to your point.** Think about why you included that evidence. Is it from someone important? Does it provide new information or a different take on something you've already discussed? Explain what this evidence means for your argument or topic.

In the example below, **the analysis of evidence is highlighted** after the evidence.

Body Paragraph 3

Finally, one of the most important reasons why spaghetti and meatballs is such a good meal is because it is so inexpensive to make at home for large groups. With pasta costing just one dollar per box, pasta sauce costing around three dollars a jar, and a bag of frozen meatballs costing around eight dollars for 30 meatballs, one could serve upwards of 20 people for around \$45. According to the League of Bay State Restaurants, the average cost of an Italian dinner at restaurants in Massachusetts is \$22 per plate and \$10 per plate when ordered family style (Cabral 2). **With cost differentials being upwards of \$150 when served family style and nearly \$400 when served individually, the savings are vast. When cooked at home for under \$3 per person, this filling meal is hard to beat.**

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions are the summarizing section of the essay. No new information is given in this paragraph! Think of it like a teacher reviewing the assignments before everyone leaves class: “Don’t forget! We did this, this, and this.” It’s only review.

Elements of a Conclusion

1. **Restatement the thesis:** The first sentence should be a restatement of the thesis statement, but that means use different words!

Example: *For a quick, cheap meal that everyone can agree on, there is no better option than spaghetti and meatballs.*

2. **Reviewing of your body paragraph points:** For each body paragraph you wrote, write a one sentence summary of its main ideas. So if you have 4 body paragraphs, you’ll have about 4 sentences in this section of the conclusion.

Example: *When there’s just no time to cook, you can have spaghetti and meatballs on the table in well under an hour. Plus, its ease of preparation and versatility is bound to satisfy the picky and impatient alike. And of course, in a world where you’re watching every dime, it’s an option that won’t break the bank.*

3. **Connect back to your hook:** Remember those broad ideas you wrote in the beginning of the introduction? Connect back to those ideas to close out your essay.

Example: *So, if you ever find yourself asking the age-old question, “What’s for dinner?” don’t forget about this classic!*

Complete Conclusion:

For a quick, cheap meal that everyone can agree on, there is no better option than spaghetti and meatballs. When there’s just no time to cook, you can have spaghetti and meatballs on the table in well under an hour. Plus, its ease of preparation and versatility is bound to satisfy the picky and impatient alike. And of course, in a world where you’re watching every dime, it’s an option that won’t break the bank. So, if you ever find yourself asking the age-old question, “What’s for dinner?” don’t forget about this classic!

Student First and Last Name

Professor

Class Name

Date: 18 October 2023

The Classic Italian Meal

When your kid asks if their soccer team can come over for dinner, or it's your turn to host the book club's monthly gathering, or you're having co-workers over to celebrate a recent business venture, choosing what to make for dinner can be tricky. Should you pick a lavish meal with many courses? Or something light and healthy? Deciding between the millions of options and what people will actually eat (and what you can afford), there's one tried and true classic that always delivers: spaghetti and meatballs. Because it's fast, well-loved, and inexpensive, spaghetti and meatballs is the best meal for a crowd.

One of the best aspects of spaghetti and meatballs is that it's so fast to make. If preparing the meal in alignment with modern life using boxed pasta, jarred sauce, and frozen meatballs, the whole meal can be table-ready in just 30 minutes. Pasta cooks in only eight minutes, jarred sauce can be heated even faster, and the meatballs can be cooked in the oven in 30 minutes. If the chef organizes their time wisely, they will even be able to set the table and slice up some bread before the oven timer rings and the pasta needs to be drained. With ingredients that are so widely available and simple to cook, making spaghetti and meatballs can be one of the faster meals prepared in the week.

As well as being quick, this meal is also a crowd pleaser. Surveys show that nine out of ten people are happy to hear that spaghetti and meatballs is being served for dinner (Pierre 3). With the ingredients of the meal being so basic, there's always some part of the meal to please even the pickiest eaters. Those who don't like sauce can opt for buttered noodles. Vegetarian? Skip the meatballs. Love cheese? Pour on the parmesan! Rather have a meatball sub? Loosen the pasta and put the meatballs on the bread. There are more options than one might initially think when serving spaghetti and meatballs. In addition to being so versatile, pasta dishes can often invoke a feeling of nostalgia for many people. Memories of family dinners with grandparents and cousins, banquet halls celebrating the end of a sporting season, and fighting over who would get that last meatball—this common family meal can bring back the joys of childhood for many.

Finally, one of the most important reasons why spaghetti and meatballs is such a good meal is because it is so inexpensive to make at home for large groups. With pasta costing just one dollar per box, pasta sauce costing around three dollars a jar, and a bag of frozen meatballs costing around eight dollars for 30 meatballs, one could serve upwards of 20 people for around \$45. According to the League of Bay State Restaurants, the average cost of an Italian dinner at restaurants in Massachusetts is \$22 per plate and \$10 per plate when ordered family style (Cabral 2). When cooked at home for under \$3 per person, this filling meal is hard to beat.

For a quick, cheap meal that everyone can agree on, there is no better option than spaghetti and meatballs. When there's just no time to cook, you can have spaghetti and meatballs on the table in well under an hour. Plus, its ease of preparation and versatility is bound to satisfy the picky and impatient alike. And of course, in a world where you're watching every dime, it's an option that won't break the bank. So, if you ever find yourself asking the age-old question, "What's for dinner?" don't forget about this classic!

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