

A PEEL essay is (at its roots) argumentative; you will need to make claim, support it with evidence and understand/explain the points you are making (as well as the counterclaim). The PEEL technique, when properly applied, delivers a better essay/exam performance; it provides an appropriate structure for each point made in the essay. Follow these steps out outline your PEEL paragraphs:

PEEL	An explanation	Tricks/Tips/Hints	Transitions for Writing
P= Point	Decide on a POINT relative to your writing prompt, question, or essay topic.	*pro tip: organize your points BEFORE writing (don't do it on the fly)... jotting is perfect, just organize your thoughts first	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ To begin... ★ First... ★ Next... ★ Moving on to... ★ As well as... ★ In addition to...
E= Evidence	Choose EVIDENCE for each point you are making. Go back to the text, find quotable evidence that supports the point you are making.	*pro tip: highlight/underline the evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ For example... ★ This is shown in... ★ Such as... ★ Beyond... ★ Meanwhile...
E= Evaluation	For each quote, jot down notes about how you will EXPLAIN your EVIDENCE . Having trouble? Answer the question: How does the evidence support your point?	*use higher order verbs from Bloom's Taxonomy (specifically the Evaluating column/level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Similarly.. ★ As a result of... ★ This means that... ★ This caused... ★ Likewise.. ★ Unlike... ★ In fact... ★ Conversely...
L= Link [back to your explanation & point]	Link your EXPLANATION back to your POINT . Transition words that assert truth or grant opposition might help:	*choose appropriate transitional elements to enhance writing (not alienate your reader)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Undoubtedly... ★ Naturally... ★ In fact... ★ In summation... ★ We may conclude that... ★ This lead [whomever] to believe that...

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Should I start with my strongest point or my weakest point?
This is a student's preference--some would prefer to build up to the "biggest" point, others prefer to lead with strength. It is important to consider that in a timed testing situation students might run out of time and should start with their strongest point.
2. Can I lump more than one point into a paragraph?
Sure! This might be a good option for a sophisticated writer to express some autonomy and creativity. But beware--double duty points does not relinquish the writer from responsibilities for double the E, E, L. However, the typical high school writer should stick with a one-point-one-paragraph approach.
3. What about the introduction? Does it follow the same format?
A strong introduction will introduce the topic briefly and offer a strong, two-part thesis statement. Because this is an argumentative essay, students might want to introduce the claim and the counter in the intro.
4. What happens with the link? Does it link back to the overall thesis, the point of that paragraph, or does it relate the current point to the next paragraph?
The "best" or most successful links pull the thesis statement/prompt back into the paragraph. Students should reinforce

