**The Structure of a Body Paragraph: the Burger Method**

1. **The topic sentence refers to the thesis point.**
2. **Set up the support. Provide context (what’s going on when your evidence occurs?).**

**Set-up can be more than one sentence!**

1. **Provide textual evidence (paraphrase or a quotation).**
2. **Explain: How does this textual evidence support your point?**
3. **Conclude the paragraph by referencing the thesis point.**

**To make your body paragraph even stronger, make it a “double cheeseburger,” repeating steps 2, 3, and 4 of the outline with a second example of support before ending with the concluding sentence.** The sequence would be:

1. The topic sentence refers to the thesis point. [top bun]
2. Set up the support. (What’s going on in the novel?) [lettuce and tomato]
3. Provide textual evidence. (Quote from the novel) [meat or veggie burger]
4. Explain. (How does the quote support your thesis?) [special sauce]
5. Set up the second support.
6. Provide second example of textual evidence.
7. Explain.
8. Conclude the paragraph referring to the thesis point. (…AND transitioning to the next body paragraph if appropriate) [bottom bun]

**Remember to use proper formatting for quotations, leading into them and citing them correctly!**

**A few examples of structure and formatting, using “Mary had a Little Lamb” as an example:**

Mother Goose emphasizes the lamb’s dependence on Mary, writing that “Everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go” (5).

The small animal follows Mary to school. Its presence in the classroom, which “was against the rules” causes the children to “laugh and play” (17). Eventually, the teacher is forced to remove the lamb from the classroom to restore order. Still, the lamb waits for Mary outside the schoolroom all day, causing a distraction to the other students.

The students repeatedly ask the teacher why the lamb loves Mary so much. The teacher explains, “Mary loves it so” (23). This statement greatly entertains the children, but no other mention of Mary’s interaction with her peers is mentioned.