PIE Organization

The Center

PLANNING & BUILDING YOUR ESSAY

Who doesn’t like pie? Did you know that PIE can help you plan and build your essay? Well, it can – delicious! PIE is an acronym that will help you build a unified, well-supported paragraph. Here is what it stands for:

**P**oint = “P” stands for main point. All body paragraphs need to be unified around one main point.

**I**llustration = “I” stands for illustration. All body paragraphs need illustrations for support. Illustrations can come from personal experience or sources such as books.

**E**xplanation = “E” stands for explanation. All body paragraphs need a concluding sentence that explains how the illustrations support the main point. The “E” also helps you transition between main points.

Here is how one awesome student used some delicious PIE to plan a paragraph from her essay.

**Thesis:** New officers should do several things to begin a career in the military, including gaining respect from enlisted corps and training hard to ensure lifelong commitment to fitness.

**P** Officers should do everything in their power in order to gain the support and understanding of the enlisted corps, and there are steps to take to accomplish this goal.

**I** According to Jackson in *Being an Officer*, these steps include promoting the qualities that one would expect to see from an officer, such as “outstanding leadership ability, understanding their subordinates, and a willingness to make sacrifices for those under their command” (34).

**E** Overall, an officer must begin a career by earning respect which can be accomplished by embodying positive qualities, including being in top-notch physical condition.

As this student drafted, she added additional information from her personal experience to her illustrations to make them more specific. She also added some
research from reputable websites and scholarly journals to support her opinions. Now see if you can use PIE to plan and develop content for your own.

**Thesis statement:**

**Body paragraph 1**
P:

I:

E:

**Body paragraph 2**
P:

I:

E:

**Body paragraph 3**
P:

I:

E: