

## Option A Body Para.

• Reasons why I choose X (ex: visual)

• Reasons why I wouldn't choose Y. (ex: non-visual)

## Option B Body Para

• Main reason why I would choose X

• Another reason why I would choose X

• should include specific points

• could connect to "Penache" short story

• School Ties film

• other personal examples you know of

### Body Paragraph Guide (in general)

1. Topic Sentence: state what the focus of this paragraph will be in support of the essay/speech focus.

It should also begin with a Transitional Phrase - is this the 1st or 2nd of the two paragraphs to support this speech?

2. Background to the paragraph topic: explain to your audience what you mean by this paragraph topic.

Ex: If it's the reasons why you would choose to be a visual minority, then expand on what visual minority means, more so than what you included in your introduction paragraph

3 - 5 Supports for your choice: You want to support a body paragraph with specific details, reasons, examples that contribute to your choice. This could include referring to a movie example, a story you know of, or specific moment you could imagine experiencing but explaining the discomfort it may have.

Could include many examples and many sentences to explain it.

Remember to include Transitional Phrases between sentences in your paragraph linking ideas together.

6. Summary Sentence: to wrap up this paragraph's focus, the last sentence should remind the reader what this paragraph's focus was.

Ex: If topic was Reasons why I'd choose Visual Minority... then summary sentence could sound like: Considering all of these realities, my choice would still be visual minority.



## Sample Student Body Paragraphs - sorted from weak to strong

The first reason that I would prefer to be part of a non-visual minority instead of a visual minority is because I could choose who knows about the minority status. This is a big part of my decision because when I meet people, I would not be subjected to judgment immediately and instead wait until I trust them more. This could be in a situation where you are not close enough to someone that you want them to know something so personal about you. Doing something like this isn't even an option if you are part of a visual minority, because everyone sees how you are different, and judges you from that appearance. This is the first reason why I would want to be part of a non-visual minority as opposed to a visual one, because I have control over who knows about my differences.

Strengths:  
\* Good transition to start paragraph  
\* Summary sentence reminds of the paragraph focus

Weaknesses:  
\* Less developed paragraph (message is weak)  
\* lacks specific example included

When you are a visual minority, people can see you for who you are as soon as they meet you. Sometimes this may not be a great thing because there will be those stereotypes that are placed on people of that minority and people will judge, but if the person with the visual minority can get past those stereotypes, they will be able to develop a relationship with that person that could be quite strong. I don't know about anyone else, but when I build a friendship, I want the person to like me for who I am, not for who they think I am. If I live my life hiding my minority from the people around me, I could end up living life in a bubble, because I won't be able to talk about it with anyone in fear of screwing things up. Eventually, I will have to tell them the truth and this could cause me to lose friendships with the people I care most about. They may not trust me anymore or they may go and tell other people I didn't want knowing. If people can see my difference, there is no secrets I have to worry about.

Strengths:  
\* Starts with a transition phrase  
\* Connects to personal reasons  
\* speaks in 1st person (I)

Better development of message/reasons  
Weaknesses:  
\* should include connection to speech focus - your choice & reasons in 1st sentence  
\* Could do better to summarize paragraph topic in the final sentence

For a minority of any kind, acceptance for oneself is possibly the hardest obstacle to overcome in many cases. What's normal for a human being is a sense of belonging. We constantly strive to fit in in social crowds but, even more so, we want to fit in for the sake of ourselves, and to make ourselves feel better. This task is difficult for anyone, but even more so for minorities. Finding your place in the world becomes significantly harder when you realize you aren't like most of it. Despite the difficulty for both minorities, I believe that acceptance of oneself would come faster for a visual minority. Since a visual minority's difference is out in the open for everyone to see, the treatment of these people becomes more apparent sooner in life. Because of how obvious these differences are in these people, it's safe to say that visual minorities will learn to deal with issues sooner, resulting in a sooner interpersonal acceptance.

Good  
\* it starts with a transition  
\* includes development of issue  
\* strong sentence development/complexity

Weakness:  
\* should develop an anecdote or specific example to include  
\* doesn't make it clear what Side this paragraph supports (For Vis or For Non-Vis)

A visual minority is more appealing to me over a non-visual minority, because of the way I would be treated by my friends and the people I encounter every day. I would be able to tell who my real friends are just by the way they treat me and other people that look like me. I would be able to tell if that person was being friendly to me just to be seen by other White people as a good person being friends with a Black person by how they treated me and other people who look like me when there weren't any other White people around to see how they act around their Black friend. When I would meet someone new, they would make quick judgments about me, good or bad, but I would be able to tell if I wanted to keep talking to them or if I wanted to just leave the encounter. If I was a person of colour living in a mainly White community, I would be able to tell who my real friends were just by how I was treated by the people around me. If I met a new person and they straight away avoided me, or held me to a stereotype, I would know that I don't want to be around that person, but if I met a new White person and they treated me just like any other White person around, I would know that I could trust them not to make judgements about me based on my looks. I know I could handle people making the quick judgements about me, because I know that I would have other real friends that would accept me for who I am and what I look like.

Good  
\* topic (1st) sentence clearly connects to speech topic  
\* includes development of issue including many thoughtful examples of experiencing this issue  
\* strong sentence development/complexity

Weakness:  
\* there is no summary sentence as a last sentence (Sum Sentence should remind reader what this paragraph was about)