

1. Topic sentence -- establishes paragraph's claim/focus
2. Source -- explain and cite
3. Analysis -- offer commentary explaining the source's connection to claim/thesis  
(can copy from "My Ideas" if appropriate)

Thesis: Fear isn't always a bad thing to have and usually is a good thing.

Body paragraph: As used in the dictionary, fear is "an unpleasant emotion caused by the threat of danger, pain, or harm" ("Fear," MWD, def. 1). In my words, fear is something a person is scared of doing. Some of the words that describe fear in the thesaurus are "anxiety, concern, dread, panic, terror, scare" ("Fear," Thesaurus.com). All of these words revolve around negative things, but this still doesn't make fear a bad thing.

**NOTE: this is a WEAK paragraph**

Thesis: Fear isn't always a bad thing to have and usually is a good thing.

Body paragraph: As used in the dictionary, fear is "an unpleasant emotion caused by the threat of danger, pain, or harm" ("Fear," MWD, def. 1). **The dictionary explicitly calls fear "unpleasant," suggesting we would try to avoid it.** Some of the words that describe fear in the thesaurus are "anxiety, concern, dread, panic, terror, scare" ("Fear," Thesaurus.com). **Most of these words describe "unpleasant emotions," as mentioned in the dictionary, particularly "panic" and "terror."** However, despite the dictionary definition and most of the synonyms revolving around negative things, we also see the synonym "concern." **Does that mean fear doesn't have to be a bad thing?**

**NOTE: this is a stronger paragraph**

Thesis: Are we really free? (liberty)

Body paragraph: Most people in today's society feel like they are free. They feel they can do what they want. The definition of liberty is "the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views" ("Liberty," M-W, def. 1a). This is what most people believe.

**NOTE: this is a WEAK paragraph**