

The Key to Elaboration

ICED is a strategy to help you expand on your ideas to be certain **that all body paragraphs** are fully explained as well as connected to your thesis.

I – Idea

This is the topic sentence of each body paragraph that directly and always supports the thesis/claim.

C – Citation

This is the textual evidence that relates to your specific idea in the body paragraph. If you are allowed to use your book, this should be a direct quote, embedded quote, or paraphrase. If you are not allowed to use your book, then this should be a summary or paraphrase of an event in the text. If you are writing an expository, persuasive or a state writing prompt, then come up with your OWN example (personal, historical, popular culture, current events, etc.) to support your topic sentence. This evidence reflects and is relevant to the central thesis/claim of your essay.

E – Explanation

This is the explanation and expansion of the citation/evidence in relation to the topic sentence. **DO NOT ASSUME THE READER KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR TOPIC!!!** Expand on I, the idea, and how C, the citation is a means of supporting your idea. This step deepens the connection between your idea (I), and your citation (C) as evidence to support your thesis/claim. This should be at least one sentence, often two.

D – Defense of Thesis

This last step is the most difficult and one that students most often forget. This is the last sentence that connects your whole paragraph back to your thesis/claim. How does this whole paragraph support your thesis/claim and tie back to the prompt?