

Key Words

Definition

Key words are the important ideas in your thesis statement. Every thesis statement has them. Sometimes, but not always, these key words are the topics of your body paragraphs. The important thing to remember about key words is that they **MUST** be repeated in the topic sentences in order for paper to have unity--or, in other words, to make sure that your body paragraphs support your thesis!

Example

Pretend this is your thesis.
The key words are bolded.

The first three key words tell what the subjects of the body paragraphs will be--in order, by the way! The last two are the crux of what this thesis is trying to prove.

Here, "incisive humor" is pretty much the same as "discriminating irreverence"

In this sentence, instead of the general "predecessors," I've given an actual name: Ben Franklin. "Wit" is substituted for "discriminating irreverence."

This is very similar to the thesis, except I've used "freedom" instead of "free society"

Based on **Twain's** own writings and on those of his predecessors, as well as ample evidence from comedy today, it indeed is evident that **"discriminating irreverence"** plays a vital role in our **free society**.

TOPIC SENTENCE 1:

Twain himself was a master at using his incisive humor to promote a more free society.

TOPIC SENTENCE 2:

Before Twain, **Benjamin Franklin** also used his **wit** to help establish the **freedoms** that we now enjoy.

TOPIC SENTENCE 3:

Even today, **many comedians** demonstrate Twain's same **"discriminating irreverence"** and not only practice **freedom** of speech themselves, but also help preserve it for others.

Don't Forget Transitions!

Each body paragraph must also include a transition to link it to the previous paragraph. A transition can be a word ("also"), a phrase ("another way..."), or even an entire sentence ("Twain was not the only comedian to further freedom.") Here's a very short list (complete list appears earlier in this handbook):

Words that show order:

first	next
finally	later
after	

Words that show relationships:

and	also
because	since
therefore	besides
moreover	similarly
unless	

Words that show the opposite point of view:

but	while
however	although
in contrast	
on the other hand	

Repeating words is a great way to make a transition, too!