

LIBRARY GUIDE

Using the PEEL Structure in Essay Writing

For Students of the Caribbean Maritime University

What is PEEL?

PEEL is a strategy used to help you write clear, structured, and persuasive paragraphs in essays, reports, and written assignments. Each letter stands for a step in building a strong paragraph:

| Letter | Stands for | Purpose |
|--------|--------------------|---|
| P | Point | Introduce the main idea of your paragraph. |
| E | Evidence | Support your point with data or examples. |
| E | Explanation | Show how your evidence supports your point. |
| L | Link | Connect back to the topic or next idea. |

PEEL in Practice: Step-by-Step

P – Point

Start with a clear topic sentence.

- State what the paragraph will be about.
- Respond directly to the essay question.

✓ *Example (Marine Engineering): "Efficient engine maintenance is essential for preventing mechanical failures at sea."*

E – Evidence

Provide evidence to back up your point.

- Use facts, real-life examples, statistics, or quotations from lectures, texts, or manuals.

✓ *Example:*

"According to the IMO 2020 report, over 40% of engine-related delays were due to poor maintenance schedules."

E – Explanation

Explain how the evidence supports your point.

- Break it down in your own words.
- Clarify why the evidence matters.

✓ *Example:*

"This shows that failure to perform regular checks and adhere to manufacturer guidelines can have serious operational consequences."

L – Link

Link back to the essay question or forward to the next paragraph.

- Reinforce your argument.
- Smoothly transition to the next point.

✓ *Example:*

"Thus, routine maintenance not only improves safety but also ensures regulatory compliance and efficiency at sea."

Full PEEL Paragraph Example (Maritime Policy Essay)

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Point | Effective maritime laws are essential for protecting national waters from illegal fishing. |
| Evidence | For example, the Maritime Authority of Jamaica reported a 25% drop in illegal vessel activity after implementing stricter patrolling laws. |
| Explanation | This decline suggests that enforcing clear regulations and improving surveillance can deter unauthorized fishing practices. |
| Link | Therefore, policy enforcement plays a critical role in safeguarding marine resources and supporting the local fishing industry. |

Tips for CMU Students

- Always **read the essay question carefully** and underline keywords.
 - Use PEEL to organize each **body paragraph** in your essay.
 - When writing reports or lab reflections, PEEL helps ensure your points are **clear and well-supported**.
 - Refer to your course manuals, IMO documents, or lecture notes for reliable **evidence**.
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Useful PEEL Starters


| Step | Starters |
|------|--|
| P | "One important factor is..." "A key issue in maritime safety is..." |
| E | "For instance..." "According to [source]..." "As stated in the STCW guidelines..." |
| E | "This means that..." "This demonstrates..." |
| L | "Therefore..." "This supports the idea that..." "In conclusion..." |

Additional Support



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 **Email:** library@cmu.edu.jm

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