1. **P**oint – first sentence that makes main claim of the paragraph, topic sentence
2. **I**llustrate information – give a quote, use a symbol, evidence supporting your claim, experiences
3. **E**xplain – or narrate, persuade, evaluate, describe the meaning of information, connects information to the point (comes from writer only) [[1]](#footnote-1)
4. **S**ummarize – a conclusion sentence

Consider the following thesis statement:

While the first candidate has some redeeming qualities and expresses some valid points, the second candidate has more field experience, plausible solutions, and a solid reputation.

Here is a body or topic paragraph that exhibits the PIES method:

First, Candidate B has more field experience. She has served the city for over 10 years. Judge Reinhold mentioned, “Candidate B worked for our courts as an investigator from 2000 to 2010. We value her dedicated service” (Gray, 2011, p. 12).[[2]](#footnote-2) Reinhold’s vote of confidence is important because she is a credible member of Houston’s judicial community. Her testimonial provides credibility to Candidate B’s proof of field experience.

1. The PIE method is mentioned in several writing textbooks and websites, such as Ashford University’s Writing Resources at https://awc.ashford.edu/essay-dev-pie-paragraph.html; however, I’ve altered it a bit to include the conclusion statement to the paragraph’s structure. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Since the paragraph has an in-text citation, the writer should include a bibliography at the end of the essay. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)