

explain the topic sentence in each body paragraph. Notice that I ended each of my body paragraphs with a conclusion.

I've included my outline to the essay to show how I planned my ideas before writing.



A Luxury Ride

My son had a big grin on his face as I got ready to drive him to Cub Scouts yesterday. When I asked him what I did to deserve that smile, he pointed gleefully at our new vehicle. We had traded in Miss Debbi, an ancient station wagon that I received as a gift from my parents in the late 80s, for a sleek, teal green minivan. Even though I was grateful to our old car for getting me through those early years as a mother, as my babies became youngsters, Miss Debbi got creakier and rustier and uglier, and my son and daughter were plainly embarrassed to be seen in her. What took Miss Debbi to her grave, though, were the credit card bonus points that my father contributed toward a new vehicle. Dear old dad was the hit of our family when he suggested that we look for something larger and safer than my old clunker. As I gathered up my son and his gear to take him to scouts, **I realized how perfectly this new minivan meets my needs as a parent.**

First, the exterior of the van offers me style, safety, and convenience. Compared to my old clunker, the minivan is the height of **style** with its teal green exterior and sleek aerodynamic design. Surprisingly, the van is not much longer than my old sedan, and with the cab forward design, it has the appearance of a sleek bullet train. The steel frame and advanced bumpers offer **safety** in the event of a crash, and the latest development in impact resistant skin panels means my van won't get dented every time someone's shopping cart bounces against it in a parking lot. In addition, the van isn't much higher than my old sedan, which makes it **easy for me** to stash lawn chairs, cooler, and tent on the roof racks when we go camping. I also like the side door that slides wide open to load kids and dogs. For groceries, the hatch back allows me to stuff bags and cartons in the rear compartment without upsetting the kids camped in the middle seats. Finally, the keyless entry is a fabulous feature for a single woman with her arms full of packages and children.

Not only does the exterior of the new minivan perfectly suit my needs as a parent, but the interior is designed for the driver's safety and comfort. When a motorist enters the vehicle, she is offered choices for adjusting the **seat's** height, distance from the steering wheel, and lower back support, which ensures that every driver is properly positioned to operate the vehicle without straining, stretching, or hunching down. In front of the driver of a minivan, there is a beautifully displayed **instrument panel** with a digital display that is lit in bright colors for easy reading. Moreover, the **console** next to the driver anticipates her needs with its cup holders and organizer tray for tapes or CDs. When the van is moving, a computerized voice warns of unlocked **doors** or unfastened seat belts, which puts a driver at ease when carrying a vanload of kids. The driver can even control the **mirror** on the passenger door to get a better look at the lanes of traffic, and the mirror on the back gate lets the driver feel confident when backing into a parking space.

Finally, the van's performance features make it a pleasure to drive. The engine provides the power of **six cylinders**, which gives me the acceleration

I. Introduction

A. Background Info

1. Anecdote of son loving new van
2. Story of Debbi, the old car

B. Thesis: I realized how perfectly this new minivan meets my needs as a parent.

II. The exterior of my van offers me style, safety, and convenience.

A. Style

B. Safety

C. Convenience

III. The interior of new minivans are designed for the driver's safety and comfort.

A. Seats

B. Instrument panel

C. Console

D. Doors

E. Mirrors

IV. The van's performance features make it a pleasure to drive.