Anatomy of a Research Paper Body Paragraph

That Defends a Thesis:

The following body paragraph is an example of the elements necessary for a research paper. Here is the thesis statement that is earlier in this student’s research paper:

Gaining the trust of a society and persuading the people that the leader’s actions will benefit the masses creates a connection that feeds emotions that, in turn, ignite the idea of a union where everyone can be happy and prosperous, thus, there is no easier time to gain the loyalty of citizens than during an era of a depressed economic condition.

(There are a few missing elements in the following paragraph, which the student author will fix. However, this body paragraph is a solid example for both its structure and content.)

Note the topic sentence is addressing change and how easy and vulnerable a society can be when a despotic leader invades the political landscape of a country:

A society yearning for change presents a prime opportunity for a despotic leader to wield his radical views before the disgruntled masses; furthermore, he has a far simpler transition to power when the people are suffering from the social and political ills of a dysfunctional government. (Note how the topic
sentence of this paragraph is the author’s opinion, or claim. This is how your body paragraphs should begin.) According to Arthur Schopenhauer in his article, “NEEDS ARTICLE TITLE IN QUOTES,” he asserts, (Note how the research is being set up. Yes, the article title does need to be added.) “Every miserable fool who has nothing at all of which he can be proud, adopts as a last resource pride in the nation to which he belongs; he is ready and happy to defend all its faults and follies tooth and nail, thus reimbursing himself for his own inferiority” (NEEDS PAGE #; however, this direct quote is excellent). The more uninformed citizens are, the more likely they are going to ignorantly accept a leader who is fueled by illogical rhetoric rather than sound solutions. (Note how the author is analyzing the research, in this case, the direct quote.) From the early twentieth century, the most recognized example of a ruler who quickly converted thousands of followers is Adolf Hitler. This self-styled ruler, or “fuhrer” single out Jews as the scapegoats for Germany’s deplorable economic situation, when actually the real reason for the massive German debts came from the devastation of World War I. Rather than presenting the facts, Hitler continually disseminated to the Germans propaganda that featured extremely detrimental caricatures of Jewish men and women in children’s school textbooks, posters, and political cartoons. By 1938, Germans and other nationalities such as the Polish accepted Hitler’s anti-Semitic dogma. George Orwell not only didn’t believe the hype and rhetoric of Hitler, he probably (use a qualifying word here to prevent authorial fallacy) felt (here is where I am delving into Orwell’s mind) that nationalism was a
widespread form of ignorance. (NEEDS AN ORWELL QUOTE HERE TO DEFEND THE PREVIOUS ANALYSIS). Power can be an addicting and attractive and being a citizen from a country that prides itself on being the best country in the world due to financial resources and military might create a vivid image in the minds of the citizens that coerces, even dupes, them to view their lives as far superior to any other country’s citizens. This is nationalism—and insecurity—at its worst. (Note how this paragraph opens and closes with analysis, or another claim. This is the kind of structure that your body grafs need to have so that your argument is solid and intelligent. Make sure your body grafs support some aspect of your thesis. Two thesis elements, emotions and unity, are addressed in the body paragraph. Each body graf should alternate between research and your analysis, or claims. Make sure you cite your sources per the proper MLA protocols. Be sure to read aloud all of your body grafs so that your argumentation makes sense! Highlight in pink your analyses, or opinions, and in blue, cold hard facts~logos. Highlight in yellow your thesis statement.)