

A QUICK GUIDE TO PARAGRAPHS

Topic Sentence

Not every paragraph has a concise topic sentence, but every paragraph should have an identifiable main idea or claim.

Transitions

Connect the paragraph you just finished to the next paragraph.

Cohesion

Every paragraph should focus on one idea. If you go to a new idea, you need to go to a new paragraph!

Development

Find ways to bring evidence in your paragraph in order to defend your main idea or claim.

Length

Paragraphs are usually (but not necessarily) 5-8 sentences long. Go to a new paragraph when you start discussing a new idea, or when your argument seems to be getting a bit long.