

## HOW TO WRITE A GOOD PARAGRAPH

### A GOOD PARAGRAPH SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. A Topic Sentence—the first sentence of a paragraph that announces what the paragraph will be about. It will include one portion of your subthesis
2. Several sentences of factual support.
3. Only one main idea—if you switch to a different idea, you should start a new paragraph.
4. Transition to show organization (First, Next, Last etc.)

### TOPIC SENTENCES:

A topic sentence is like a mini-thesis for your paragraph. It contains the main idea of the paragraph.

### SAMPLE TOPIC SENTENCE:

One reason why cell phones should be allowed in school is so students can learn to use technology the way it is used in the real world.

### WHERE DOES YOUR TOPIC SENTENCE COME FROM?:

In a perfect world, your topic sentence comes from one of the ideas in your sub-thesis.

### SO I'VE WRITTEN A TOPIC SENTENCE. NOW WHAT?

At this point, you want to include several sentences of specific support to back up your topic sentence. These should come from any books, lectures, course materials or, if relevant, personal experiences you have relating to the the topic.

### SAMPLE WELL-WRITTEN PARAGRAPH #1

One reason why cell phones should be allowed in school is so students can learn to use technology the way it is used in the real world. Businesspeople use hand-held devices every day to store information, communicate with contacts and maintain schedules and calendars. In the next few years it is likely that this will only happen more. At the rate technology grow, it will probably not be long before people In all sorts of professions use phones to read, create and share documents and collaborate with colleagues both locally and globally. It only makes sense to incorporate these technologies into classrooms as much as possible. Doing so prepares students for the world they will experience after school and that is what an education is supposed to do. Training students to do this with paper and pencil makes about as much sense as teaching them to cook using an open flame and Dutch oven.

### SAMPLE WELL-WRITTEN PARAGRAPH #2

Second, World War II was caused by militarism. The Great Powers of Europe were preparing for war by forming armies, building ships and creating new weapons. Germany built a new ship, the Dreadnaught, that could hit a target at longer distances. They also developed new machine guns. Being ready for war made them more likely to go to war.