

# “How to Write a Perfect Paragraph” Cheat Sheet

## Paragraph Order

1. Topic Sentence
2. Body (3+ detail sentences)
3. Summary or Conclusion Sentence

## Topic Sentence:

- Starts a paragraph
- Is one sentence (subject + predicate)
- Includes the main idea of the paragraph
- Is vague but with focus
- Connects to the body sentences
- Uses formal language (~~I like, good, fun~~)
- States an opinion about the main idea
  - **Development Questions:**
    - **What is the main point I’m trying to make?**
    - **Will I be able to tie all of my detail sentences back to this topic?**
    - **Is my sentence an opinion (some people may not agree)?**

## Body Paragraph:

- Discusses the main idea
- Can include reasons, facts, examples, and details
- Every sentence connects back to the topic sentence and the main idea
  - **Development Questions:**
    - **Do all of my sentences tie back to the main idea in the topic sentence?**
    - **Did I stick to the topic?**

## Summary:

- Briefly repeats the main idea
- Last sentence of a paragraph/essay
  - **Development Questions:**
    - **What is the main idea of the paragraph? (look in the topic sentence)**
    - **How can I restate the main idea?**
    - **Did I include the complete main idea in my summary sentence?**

## Conclusion:

- Logical judgment based on evidence
- Last sentence of a paragraph/essay
  - **Development Questions:**
    - **What is a new idea based on the details?**
    - **What might happen now?**
    - **Does my conclusion make sense with the details?**