

INFORMATION SHEET – PARAGRAPH REVIEW

1. WHAT IS A PARAGRAPH?

A paragraph is a collection of sentences expressing ideas, opinions or beliefs about one main idea. Most paragraphs are indented.

2. WHAT IS PARAGRAPH UNITY?

A paragraph with unity has ideas that are related to each other and are presented in a logical order. Every sentence in the paragraph should be related to the main idea in some clear way.

3. WHAT IS A TOPIC SENTENCE?

The main idea of a paragraph is usually stated in the topic sentence. A topic sentence states both the topic and the idea about the topic that is discussed in the paragraph.

4. WHAT ARE THE SUPPORTING DETAILS IN A PARAGRAPH?

One purpose of a paragraph is to provide support for an idea. Examples or reasons explain and support a paragraph.

5. WHAT ARE ORDERS OF ORGANIZATION?

The ideas or supporting details in a paragraph can be related to each other in different ways. Here are some orders of organization that you should be familiar with:

- **chronological:** the order of events, or time order
- **spatial:** looking at how things are arranged in a space (descriptive)
- **emphatic:** details presented in their order of importance or for emphasis
- **cause and effect:** a certain situation causes— or results from—another
- **comparison/contrast:** examining the similarities or differences between things

6. WHAT ARE TRANSITIONAL WORDS AND PHRASES?

Transitional words help signal to the reader shifts in thought or sequence. They help present ideas in a clear and organized way. Some transitional words help present the sequence of ideas; others are used to clarify the relationship between ideas.