

ANATOMY OF YOUR PARAGRAPH

The following is a suggested format you may follow to develop your paragraphs fully. Some of you are having difficulty distinguishing a fact from an idea/interpretation.

This scheme should enable you to see how the two are different, but more importantly, it should enable you to mold your high-quality thoughts into cohesive analysis.

Paragraph 1:

Main Idea:

(The controlling, large idea of the entire paragraph that fits into your thesis)

1st Main Point:

(One way in which you can develop your main idea that answers "why" or "how" concerning your main idea)

Concrete Detail:

(This offers an example or "concrete proof" defending your main point. Start it off with a short intro, Like: "As Sam Roberts, author of "Fit or Fat," explains, "Complex carbs offer much more to the body than just carbs" (23).

Analysis:

(This probes into the detail and explains to your reader why your concrete detail is significant. Your analysis must show a connection between your concrete detail and your main point. It might very well take more than just a single, well-developed sentence.

2nd Main Point:

(Another way in which you can develop your main idea that answers "why" or "how" concerning your main idea)

Concrete Detail:

(This offers an example or "concrete proof" defending your main point. Start it off with a short intro, Like: "As Sam Roberts, author of "Fit or Fat," explains, "Complex carbs offer much more to the body than just carbs" (23).

Analysis:

(This probes into the detail and explains to your reader why your concrete detail is significant. Your analysis must show a connection between your concrete detail and your main point. It might very well take more than just a single, well-developed sentence.

3rd Main Point:

Concrete Detail:

Analysis:

Conclusive Sentence:

(This should tie up the paragraph giving the reader the impression that you now are ready to move on to other issues/main ideas that will develop your thesis)

Now you can put it all down on paper in a cohesive paragraph, making sure to maintain flow from sentence to sentence.