

## PARAGRAPH CONSTRUCTION

PARAGRAPH: a group of related sentences that present and develop ONE main idea  
(7-10 sentences MINIMUM)

- I. Topic Sentence: main idea of a paragraph
  - a. States main idea
  - b. Limits main idea
  - c. More general than supporting sentences
- II. Supporting Sentences: explain or prove the topic sentence
  - a. Specific details
  - b. Facts
  - c. Examples
  - d. Reasons
- III. Concluding Sentence: adds a strong ending to a paragraph
  - a. Restates the main idea in different words
  - b. Summarizes
  - c. Adds an insight
  - d. Shows how you feel

UNITY: make sure all supporting sentences relate to topic sentence

COHERENCE: present ideas in logical order and use transitional expressions

### METHODS OF DEVELOPMENT

1. descriptive details
2. facts/examples
3. reasons
4. incident
5. comparison/contrast
6. steps in a process

### METHODS OF ORGANIZATION (ORDER)

1. chronological order
2. spatial order
3. order of importance, interest or degree