TOPIC SENTENCE AND PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

The topic sentence, which tells what the entire paragraph will be about, has a controlling idea that asserts something about the topic, conveying your purpose, opinion, or attitude. For a paragraph to be unified, all the sentences in the paragraph must directly relate to that controlling idea. In addition, for a paragraph to be well developed, it should have details which help your audience understand your ideas.

I. Topic Sentence

A. Major Support (Point 1)
   1. Minor Support
      a. Explanation, detail, example
      b. Explanation, detail, example
   2. Minor Support
      a. Explanation, detail, example
      b. Explanation, detail, example

B. Major Support (Point 2)
   1. Minor Support
      a. Explanation, detail, example
      b. Explanation, detail, example
   2. Minor Support
      a. Explanation, detail, example
      b. Explanation, detail, example

C. Major Support (Point 3)
   1. Minor Support
      a. Explanation, detail, example
      b. Explanation, detail, example
   2. Minor Support
      a. Explanation, detail, example
      b. Explanation, detail, example

*adapted from Professor Tobin, Bucks County Community College
www.bucks.edu/tutor