

The Schaffer Model Paragraph

1 Outline of a *body* paragraph

You will write a minimum of 8 sentences:

- 1.1 Topic Sentence (TS)
- 1.2 Concrete Detail 1 (CD 1)
- 1.3 Commentary (CM 1A)
- 1.4 Commentary (CM 1B)
- 1.5 Concrete Detail 2 (CD 2)
- 1.6 Commentary (CM 2A)
- 1.7 Commentary (CM 2B)
- 1.8 Concluding Sentence (CS)

2 What is a **topic sentence**?

- 2.1 The first sentence of a paragraph
- 2.2 Summarizes what the entire paragraph will be about
- 2.3 Usually makes a **claim**
- 2.4 YOUR OWN WORDS – never a quotation or example; often your opinion

3 What is a **concrete detail**?

- 3.1 Facts/evidence used to back up your topic sentences
- 3.2 Quotations, examples, proof, evidence
- 3.3 Called concrete because they can be seen or touched – they are facts
- 3.4 **Always** begins with a transition element (For example, for instance, in addition, additionally, finally)
- 3.5 MIGHT NOT BE YOUR OWN WORDS

4 What is **commentary**?

- 4.1 Your interpretation of the facts
- 4.2 Your explanation of the facts
- 4.3 Your opinions!
- 4.4 **Never** begins with a transition element
- 4.5 YOUR OWN WORDS

5 What is a “chunk”?

- 5.1 1 concrete detail with 2 sentences of commentary
- 5.2 Minimum of 2 chunks in paragraph; maximum of 4

6 What is a concluding sentence?

- 6.1 A summary sentence for the paragraph
- 6.2 The topic sentence in different words
- 6.3 YOUR OWN WORDS