

How to Develop a Paragraph Outline: Instructions

■ Draft your Paragraph

- Briefly draft your paragraph so that your ideas can be kept in order
 - YOU NEED:
 - **Topic sentence**
 - **Point 1:** It should briefly explain how it proves your topic sentence correct
 - **Point 2:** It should briefly explain how it proves your topic sentence correct
 - **Point 3:** It should briefly explain how it proves your topic sentence correct
- *Plan evidence BEFORE writing your topic sentence.

■ Create a Strong Topic Sentence

- Topic sentences should be **1-2 sentences**
- The topic sentence explains what the paragraph is about
- Your reader should be able to identify the MAIN IDEA of the paragraph after reading JUST the topic sentence
- **Never** use "I" statements in a topic sentence
- **Never** refer to your own writing (For example, never say, "In this paragraph, I will...").

■ Develop your Content

- Context should cover about 6-9 sentences
- This is the rest of the paragraph
- For each of the 3 points, you must now EXPLAIN how each point **relates to, supports, or proves** your topic sentence
- There should be 2-3 sentences for each piece of evidence.

■ Plan a Conclusion

- Should be only 1 sentence.
- Restate your topic but in different words than your topic sentence.
- Don't overcomplicate part. Make it easy on yourself!

