Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



Paragraph Writing Format

A **paragraph** consists of five to eight complete sentences and answers a specific question. In 7th grade, you will learn to write a **six sentence paragraph**. In order for a **paragraph** to be complete, it must contain the following parts:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sentence**  **1**  **Topic Sentence** | * A **topic sentence** states the main idea of the paragraph and is found at the beginning of a paragraph. The purpose of the **topic sentence** is to tell the reader what the paragraph will be about. Be sure to include **F.A.T.** (format, author, and title of literature) |
| **Sentences**  **2-5**  **Supporting**  **Detail 1**  **Commentary 1**  **SD 2**  **C2** | A **chunk** consists of one supporting detail and one piece of commentary.  **Supporting Detail + Commentary = Chunk**  **You will have TWO chunks in your paragraph.**   * **Transition words** and/or transitional phrases are words that are used to start each supporting detail. \*See handout. * **Supporting details**, also called concrete details, come after the topic sentence and make up the body of the paragraph. **Details** *support* the main idea of a paragraph. **Details** include text evidence, specific facts, examples from the plot of the story, and **direct quotations**. * **Commentary** is found after each supporting detail. It does **NOT** come from the text. * **Commentary** is a statement that includes a *comment*, opinion-based statement, explanation, interpretation, or observation about the supporting detail. * **Commentary** can include inferences, insights, analysis, connections, evaluation, personal response and reflection about the supporting detail. * It is an explanation to show that you understand the literature. It tells the reader what the author of the text means or how the supporting detail proves the topic sentence. **Commentary** answers the question “why.” |
| **Sentence**  **6**  **Concluding Sen.** | * A **concluding sentence** (closing sentence) sums the paragraph up and is the last sentence in a paragraph. The **concluding sentence** restates the topic sentence, or main idea of the paragraph, using different words. |