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)
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| **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.”

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| **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.
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