

## A Successful Paragraph . . .

- **Starts a new idea**, or **expands on the previous idea** (perhaps showing a different point of view or counter-argument).
- Has a **topic sentence** that communicates the main idea of the paragraph.
- Is **unified**. It serves to develop **only** the idea presented in the topic sentence.
- Is **fully developed**. (5-10 sentences, depending on the purpose of the paragraph.) To develop, one might:
  - Give personal or textual examples (narratives, paraphrases, quotes, etc.)
  - Provide specific details – vivid description to help the reader visualize what is being said.
  - Analyze & Explain – Comment on the significance of examples/details provided.
  - Compare/Contrast
  - Break down definitions
- Provides **logical transitions** between paragraphs and between sentences.