**Paragraph:**

**A Building Block of Writing**

*A paragraph is much more than a collection of connected sentences; it is a building block of essay development. A well-developed paragraph is a focused presentation of a single unit of thought.*

There are four major types of paragraphs namely: **narrative, descriptive, expository and persuasive**. These types of paragraphs are so named depending on their content:

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| **Narrative Paragraph:** * Tell a story or relay a sequence of events.
* Events are told in chronological order.
* Most often tells a story in order to illustrate or demonstrate a point.
* Purpose, in formal academic writing, is to inform or persuade.
 | **Expository Paragraph:*** Provides information and explores a topic.
* Explains a subject; gives directions; or shows how something happens.
* States its point, presents relevant proof and summarizes information.
* Gives information in a sequenced order.
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| **Descriptive Paragraph:*** Describes a person, place, thing, or idea.
* Reveal a subject through vivid and carefully selected details.
* Uses sensory details such as sights, sounds, smells, tastes, feelings, and textures to create vivid images in the reader’s mind.
* May compare or contrast a topic to help create a clear picture.
 | **Persuasive Paragraph:*** States the writer’s opinion on a topic and tries to convince readers to adopt the same opinion.
* Presents reasons and examples to influence or shape others’ actions or view point.
* Argue for or against a position.
* Techniques Employed-logical arguments, appeal to basic values, appeal to emotions, repetition and parallelism, charged words.
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**Critical Elements of ANY Body Paragraph:**

* *Fully develop ideas*
* *Topic sentence*
	+ general topic/main idea of the paragraph
	+ gives a fact and makes a point
	+ is your idea
* *Supporting details*
	+ evidence convincing your audience of your writing purpose and supporting your topic sentence
	+ uses quotes or paraphrased quotes
	+ incorporates facts, personal anecdotes, or logical reasoning
	+ interpret information for reader-show readers how details support ideas and connect interpretation to topic
* *Conclusion*
	+ review and sum up point of the paragraph
	+ provides reader with the reason the paragraph’s point is important