**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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. |
| **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. |

**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