

## 311 Paragraph Outline

This is an outline for a single paragraph of explanation, argument, persuasion, or analysis. It can be used for parts of a lab report, proofs, student reflection, explanation of a concept, or any writing that asks you to process complex ideas for better understanding.

Remember that your writing requires all the parts of a good argument or explanation: a statement of your main point, an introduction to your evidence, the specific evidence itself, and an explanation of how the evidence supports your main point.

- I. Topic Sentence: States both the topic of the paragraph and the main point you want to make about that topic.
  - A. (FIRST) Introduce the **first reason or example** that supports your main point.
    1. Provide a **specific example or detail** as evidence or support.
    2. **Explain how** the quote or example supports your main point.
  - B. (SECOND) Transition to **another reason or example** that supports your main point.
    1. Provide a **specific example or detail** as evidence or support.
    2. **Explain how** this quote or example supports your main point.
  - C. (FINALLY) Transition to a **third reason or example** to support your main point.
    1. Provide a **specific example or detail** as evidence or support.
    2. **Explain how** this quote or example supports your main point.
  - D. (THEREFORE) Write a concluding sentence that **explains how all three of the examples above support your topic sentence**.

# 3-11 Paragraph Blank Form

**I. Topic Sentence:**

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**A.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**D.** \_\_\_\_\_

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