**Body Paragraphs**

Organization of Body Paragraphs: Body paragraph need to contain the following information, in the following order.

I. Topic sentence (1 sentence)

II. Details and / or examples (several sentences)

III. Explanation of details (1 or more sentences)\*

IV. Restate topic sentence / closing sentence (1 sentence)

\* Sometimes, you need to explain the details individually – as in after each detail. Sometimes, you can explain them at the same time. Use your best judgment. Both are okay to do.

**Descriptions / Examples:** Use the information below to see how each part of the body paragraph looks.

* **Topic Sentences:** The topic sentence states the topic or main idea of the paragraph. It is one sentence. The topics come from your thesis statement. You discuss them in the same order that you listed them in your thesis statement. Here is an example:

The most innovative aspect of Generation Next is technology.

* **Supporting Details:** The supporting details are details that prove your topic sentence. The details should make sense with the topic, be carefully chosen, and be appropriate for the reader of your essay. Here is an example:

Students with high school diplomas are more likely to go to college. With a college degree, students will be qualified for better jobs and able to move to higher positions within companies. Technological advances during Generation Next include the inventions of the cellular phone, DVD and MP3.

* **Explanation of Details:** After giving details, you must explain to the reader *how* your details prove your topic. Here is an example:

By being qualified for better jobs, people are able to earn more money. Advances like the cellular phone have made people’s lives easier. They are able to talk to family and friends or do work from places like the airport, their cars and even the grocery store, instead of being tied to home or their office.

* **Restatement of Topic Sentence / Closing Sentence:** After you have said everything that you need to say / cover in your body paragraph, you need to bring that paragraph to a close. You have to restate the very first sentence of this paragraph, your topic sentence, to fully complete the body paragraph. Make sure to not just copy the topic sentence, it should be reworded in an interesting and thoughtful way. Here is an example:

Technology is the most innovative aspect of Generation Next.

**Putting it all together:** Here is an example of a body paragraph. See if you can identify the topic sentence, supporting details, explanation of details and restatement of the topic sentence. One example shows an explanation of all of the details after listing them. The second example how an explanation of each detail individually after giving it. Both work.

(1) Staying in school improves students’ futures. Students who stay in school are more likely to go to college. Once completing their college degrees, students will be able to get better jobs. With a better job comes a better salary. A good salary is one step in creating a better future because students will be able to afford the type of lifestyle they want to have, including purchasing a car, house and paying for a family. Completing high school is the first step toward a better future.

(2) the most innovative characteristic of Generation Next is that its members grew up with technology. Generation Next saw the internet go public. With the Internet, people can communicate, do research, read the news and find entertainment in a matter of minutes Thousands of websites at their disposal. Along with the Internet, Generation Next was raised with cellular phones. Instead of being tied to a cord, members of this Generation have been able to talk to people from anywhere and at any time. Another life-changing technological advance in this generation was the change in music formatting. From cassette tapes to CDs to MP3s, this generation has seen frequent changes. The changes have made music more convenient and available to this generation. Advances in technology have shaped Generation Next and set it apparat from previous generations.