What is a paragraph?

A group of sentences that form a unit of thought, ONE BRIGHT IDEA.

The purpose of a paragraph is to ILLUMINATE, explain, or illustrate the thesis.
Unity: *the state of being ONE*

- Single focus
- All sentences must relate to the topic
Coherence: *flowing together*

- Easy to follow through transitions or bridges
- Ideas flow together to make a clear, logical point

- An easily recognized order
- Transitional words
  - Chronological
  - Spatial
- Repetition
  - key words (Synonyms)
  - Ideas
- parallelism
Development: *to grow gradually or in detail*
Know your Purpose: *path taken*

*Organization, aim, intent*

- Narration
- Description
- Process
- Division/Classification
- Illustration
- Comparison/Contrast
- Cause/Effect
- Definition
- Argument/Persuasion
Step 1: Topic Sentence

- Usually the first sentence
- It supports the thesis by stating a main point to be discussed
- Controls the subject matter
- All of the examples, details, and explanations serve to prove the topic sentence

**Thesis Statement:**
The reasons to enact NAFTA were numerous; however, the perceived and actual effects on the United States have varied from the agreement’s intentions.

**Topic Sentence:**
One perceived effect of NAFTA has been on the manufacturing industry in the United States.
Step 2: Explain the Topic Sentence

What do you mean?

Explain topic sentence:
One perceived effect of NAFTA has been on the manufacturing industry in the United States. Ask any person who has lost a job in manufacturing, and he will most likely name NAFTA as the cause of the industry’s decline. Manufacturing is the largest goods-producing industry in terms of employment.
Step 3: Give an Example

Some methods to make sure your paragraph is well-developed:

- Examples
- Data
- Testimony
- Story
- Compare
- Evaluate
- Examine
- Analyze
- Describe
- Chronology
Step 3: Give an Example

One perceived effect of NAFTA has been on the manufacturing industry in the United States. Ask any person who has lost a job in manufacturing, and they will most likely name NAFTA as the cause of the industry’s decline. Manufacturing is the largest goods-producing industry in terms of employment. According to The United States Department of Labor: the unemployment rate in manufacturing was 7.8 percent in 1992, but continuously fell to 3.6 percent in 2000. In 2001, the rate jumped up to 5.2 percent and then, in 2002 up to 6.7 percent. Between 1991 and 2000, the number of people employed in the manufacturing industry fluctuated from 18.1 million to 18.8 million; however, in 2002, manufacturing employment dropped to 16.7 million (US, BLS, Industry). The U.S. recession that started in March 2001 officially lasted six months, but in the fifteen months following March 2001, the United States lost more than 1.3 million manufacturing jobs. Statistically, one out of every thirteen manufacturing workers became unemployed. Three-quarters of the jobs lost in the private sector have been in the goods-producing sector of the economy (Maidment).
**LOGOS**

- Facts, statistics, examples, and authoritative statements gathered to support your viewpoint.

**PATHOS**

- Pathos infers sensitivity; the emotional power of language. Appeals to readers’ needs, values, and attitudes.

**ETHOS**

- Ethos is the establishment of credibility and integrity by the writer. Convince readers that you know what you’re talking about. Show evidence of knowledge and trustworthiness.
Because of the recession and the after-effects of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, the rate shot up to 6.4 percent in June 2003 (US BLS).

Due to the loss of manufacturing jobs in the textile industry, communities have re-invented themselves in order to survive. El Paso, Texas, is a prime example. The city lost almost every textile job from a decade ago, yet the area has had a net increase in jobs, mostly in technology and small business.

Senator John Edwards (D-N.C.) suggests a higher tax on companies that move their production abroad. Senator Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) proposes a ninety-day deadline for Asian countries like Japan and China to stop manipulating their currencies to avoid U.S. tariffs. Governor Howard Dean (D-Vt.) wants to re-negotiate NAFTA to add stronger labor and environmental protections. Representative Dick Gephardt (D-Mo.) would impose an “international minimum wage” to level the playing field.
Step 4: Explain and Relate the Example

**Topic Sentence:** One perceived effect of NAFTA has been on the manufacturing industry in the United States. Ask any person who has lost a job in manufacturing, and they will most likely name NAFTA as the cause of the industry’s decline. Manufacturing is the largest goods-producing industry in terms of employment. According to The United States Department of Labor: the unemployment rate in manufacturing was 7.8 percent in 1992, but continuously fell to 3.6 percent in 2000. In 2001, the rate jumped up to 5.2 percent and then, in 2002 up to 6.7 percent. Between 1991 and 2000, the number of people employed in the manufacturing industry fluctuated from 18.1 million to 18.8 million; however, in 2002, manufacturing employment dropped to 16.7 million (US, BLS, Industry). The U.S. recession that started in March 2001 officially lasted six months, but in the fifteen months following March 2001, the United States lost more than 1.3 million manufacturing jobs. Statistically, one out of every thirteen manufacturing workers became unemployed. Three-quarters of the jobs lost in the private sector have been in the goods-producing sector of the economy (Maidment).

**Explain topic sentence:** In reality, the manufacturing industry did not show a significant loss of jobs until NAFTA had been in effect for over seven years. An actual cause for the sudden drop in employment was the recession of 2001. The cautious spending that followed greatly reduced the demand for goods; thus, the workers in those industries were laid off.
Step 5: Give Closure and Transition

*Bridge one idea to another*

- Repetition of key word from thesis
- Repetition of Key words from other paragraphs
- Transitional key word (however)

**Closing sentence:** Even with the increase of jobs due to NAFTA, the effect of the Agreement on the political landscape is apparent.
Divergence

irrelevant details
No Direction

*topic sentence missing*
Too many directions
more than one idea to be developed
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