







## Important things to remember about writing great paragraphs!

- ✓ A paragraph is a series of sentences that are about one topic.
- ✓ A paragraph is made up of three parts: a topic sentence, supporting ideas, and a clincher.

### Topic Sentences

- ✓ A topic sentence expresses the main idea of the paragraph.
- ✓ The topic sentence answers one or more questions like why, how, or where?
- ✓ You must be able to support your topic sentence.

### Supporting Ideas

- ✓ Details give writing flavor.
- ✓ Unrelated ideas do not explain or support the topic sentence.
- ✓ A transition is a link or a connection between sentences.
  - Example: first, next, meanwhile, in conclusion
- ✓ Vary the beginnings of sentences.

### Clinchers

- ✓ A clincher summarizes the main ideas or feelings in a paragraph and lets the reader know when the paragraph is done.
- ✓ Clinchers don't just restate the topic sentence; restating the topic sentence as the clincher is too easy and usually dull.
- ✓ The clincher can be the same idea as the topic sentence, a question, an amusing thought, or an unexpected twist.
- ✓ The clincher cannot be another support sentence.
- ✓ A paragraph must come full circle from the topic sentence to the clincher.