**Writing Paragraphs - PPE**

*1. Topic Sentence: The topic sentence is the first sentence in a paragraph. This is the* ***Point*** *you are going to assert. Think of it as a claim you are making.*

**What does it do?**  It introduces the main idea of the paragraph.

**How do I write one?**Summarize the main idea of your paragraph. Indicate to the reader what your paragraph will be about.

2. Supporting Details: They come after the topic sentence, making up the body of a paragraph. This is the ***Proof*** you will offer to prove your assertion [claim] is valid. ***Explain*** each supporting detail you are offering as proof.

**What do they do?**
They give details to develop and support the main idea of the paragraph.

**How do I write them?**
You should give supporting facts, details, and examples. Be sure to properly cite them if you got the information from a source.

**3. Closing Sentence** **The closing sentence is the last sentence in a paragraph.**

**What does it do?**
It restates the main idea of your paragraph.

**How do I write one?**
Restate the main idea of the paragraph using different words.

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**Example**: [note the three parts that are italicized, underlined, then bolded] Notice the citations using information from books. Note how they are punctuated, and do the same in your paper.

*There are three reasons why Canada is one of the best countries in the world*. First, Canada has an excellent health care system. All Canadians have access to medical services at a reasonable price. Citizens have “100% coverage for medical services, a luxury not enjoyed by other countries” (Jackson 41). Second, Canada has a high standard of education. Students are taught by well-trained teachers and are encouraged to continue studying at university. Most students “take advantage of the quality schooling to give Canada a very high rate of college attendance” (Sanders 324). Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed. Canadian cities have many parks and lots of space for people to live. Many citizens name this as “an overriding reason for picking a city to live in” (“Housing Choices”).  **As a result, Canada is a desirable place to live.**

The first two citations are from books – author last name and page info found in. The third citation is from a web site with no author or page numbers. Pick a few key words from the title of the article and put in quotation marks. Notice how the VAST majority of the paragraph is my writing supported by little pieces of quotes. **DO NOT** simply string together a bunch of quotes in your paper. I want to see your writing, not others.

This is a paragraph, but it really could be a paper if you expanded each of the three main points in the paragraph into paragraphs of their own. If you did that, you would develop and expand each point in the same way.