

# Anatomy of Your Paragraph

The following is a suggested format you may follow to develop your paragraphs fully, and can help you distinguish between a fact and an idea/interpretation.

Used properly, this scheme should enable you to form your high-quality thoughts into a more cohesive analysis.

## **Paragraph 1:**

**Main idea** (The controlling, large idea of the entire paragraph that fits into your thesis) >

**1st Main Point** (One way in which you can develop your main idea that answers "why" or "how" concerning your main idea) >

**Concrete Detail** (This offers an example or "concrete proof" defending your main point. Start if off with a short introduction, like: "As Sam Roberts explains, "Complex carbs offer much more to the body than just carbs" (23).

**Analysis** (This probes into the detail and explains to your reader why your concrete detail is significant. You must show a connection between your concrete detail and your main point, which might take more than a single sentence) >

**Conclusive Sentence** (This should tie up your paragraph, giving the reader the impression that you are ready to move on to other issues that will develop your main idea) >