The Writing Lab

Building a Paragraph Using Sources for Support

Handout courtesy of Amber Landis

Simple:

Topic Sentence (which clearly links to a point in your thesis statement). Your **own idea**/claim/ example about this topic, developed in 1-2 sentences. A **quote or paraphrase** from a source to support this idea/ claim/ example. This quote or paraphrase must be integrated into your own sentence. One sentence of **your own argument** that analyzes how this quote or paraphrase supports your claim/ idea/ example.   A **final sentence or two of your own argumentation** that shows how all of your support proves the overall point of the paragraph.   This is the heart of your critical analysis; to not only present evidence, but to make a clear analysis of how it proves your position. Ideally, you should also try to link back to the **overall argument of your thesis statement** here as well for this same goal.

Complex:

Topic Sentence (which clearly links to a point in your thesis statement). Your **own idea**/claim/ example about this topic, developed in 1-2 sentences. A **quote or paraphrase** from a source to support this idea/ claim/ example. This quote or paraphrase must be integrated into your own sentence. One sentence of **your own argument** that analyzes how this quote or paraphrase supports your claim/ idea/ example.   **Second example**, claim, or idea in support of the topic of this paragraph, developed in 1-2 sentences. A **quote or paraphrase** from an outside source to support this second example, claim or idea. This could also be **a second quote or paraphrase to support the first idea**, claim, or example. A **final sentence or two of your own argumentation** that shows how all of your support proves the overall point of the paragraph.   This is the heart of your critical analysis; to not only present evidence, but to make a clear analysis of how it proves your position. Ideally, you should also try to link back to the **overall argument of your thesis statement** here as well for this same goal.

Sample paragraph:

One of the advantages in using Facebook to monitor employees is for making sure that important company policies are being followed. Sometimes, employees lie about being sick or using their personal benefits in an unacceptable way. Information from Facebook can save a company lots of money by providing information about the employee to help avoid these situations. For example, a recent article in *Time* magazine revealed that the company State Farm regularly performs checks on the Facebook pages of its employees. They believe that they save at least 10,000 dollars a year in insurance fraud by doing so (Smith par. 3). This statistic shows using Facebook can have a major benefit for employers, especially to help monitor policies that regulate benefits and other expensive company expenditures. A *New York Times* article discusses how one company even fired an employee for lying about their sick leave, when in reality they were taking a vacation (Fortran par. 23). Ultimately, by monitoring their employees through social networking, a company can save itself quite a bit of money.