## Writing Handout 12 - Paragraph vs. Essay Structure

## Paragraph Structure

**Topic Sentence** - states the topic and the controlling idea of the paragraph

**Support Sentence** - linked with the controlling idea

A sentence or sentences with details or examples

**Support Sentence** - linked with the controlling idea

A sentence or sentences with details or examples

**Support Sentence** - linked with the controlling idea

A sentence or sentences with details or examples

**Concluding sentence** - summarizes the paragraph and connects back to the topic sentence

(the support sentences are connected with transition words)

## **Essay Structure**

**Introductory Paragraph** - introduces the topic and gives information about the structure of the essay - it has a paragraph structure - topic sentence and support sentences.

**Support Paragraph** - explores one aspect of the topic, and has paragraph structure - topic sentence, support sentences, (concluding sentence)

**Support Paragraph -** explores another aspect of the topic, and has paragraph structure - topic sentence, support sentences, (concluding sentence)

**Support Paragraph-** explores another aspect of the topic, and has paragraph structure - topic sentence, support sentences, (concluding sentence)

Concluding Paragraph - summarizes the essay and gives a conclusion - it also has a paragraph structure (the paragraphs are connected with transition words)

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When you write draft 1 of an essay, these steps may be helpful:

- ✓ Gather your ideas by prewriting (brainstorming)
- ✓ Group your ideas together.
- ✓ Write a draft topic sentence for each paragraph.
- ✓ Write a draft of the introductory paragraph.
- ✓ Write drafts of your support (body) paragraphs.
- ✓ Write a draft of your concluding paragraph.

For example, let's look at the topic behind the question "Is City Life Better than Country Life?"

You might begin by collecting all your ideas about city life and country life. For instance:

<u>Country life</u>: fresh air, nice scenery, healthy food, boring, difficult communications, no entertainment, good friends, know the people, hard work, not many part time jobs, inconvenient transportation, not many shops, relaxing, less stress.

<u>City life</u>: lots of shops, restaurant, entertainment, many things to choose from, convenient transportation, easy to find part time jobs, many strangers, many people we don't know, unhealthy air, pollution

Work by deciding which side you think is easier to support and which side you are more interested in supporting. Do prewriting and make sure you can sufficiently support one side!

