

PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

Ever had problems developing your para, i.e. not knowing what else to write? esp. when things appear so obvious that words seem so unnecessary? But you've got to hit about 120-150 words per para. So how? Apply tri-partite (3-part) structure for paragraph development:

- 1) *Topic sentence*
- 2) *Elaboration*
- 3) *Examples*

1) *Topic Sentence*

Of utmost importance since it serves as the point of entry into the para. I've said enough on this already! Refer to earlier handout if you're still in limbo!

2) *Elaboration*

Forms the bulk of the para, since this is where your topic sentence is fleshed out. I suggest three ways:

- (i) Keep asking yourself *WHY? HOW?*

Text	Comments
<p>Qn: Does globalization necessarily lead to a better world?</p> <p>Many critics feel that globalization leads to a better world from the cultural perspective. <i>This is because it can serve to enrich our local culture.</i> With globalization, barriers are rendered permeable, thus allowing foreign cultural influences to seep in. We can 'borrow' the positive qualities of these cultures to plug the loopholes in our own native culture, thereby boosting and enriching it in the process.</p>	<p><u>Topic Sentence</u> Note also the sub-T.S. that follows</p> <p><u>Elaboration</u> - note the way in which the 'why?' and 'how?' targeted at the topic sentence can help flesh out the para. The more these two qns are asked, the deeper you can probe into the issue.</p>

- (ii) Compare/contrast with another situation to make your point more obvious

Text	Comments
<p>Qn: How important do you think it is to travel and see the world?</p> <p>Other than establishing business contacts, traveling and seeing the world can also widen our horizons.</p> <p>The world we live in is a big and varied one, with lots of unexplored nooks and corners. When we travel to these places, we become exposed to a kaleidoscopic spectrum of its various cultures. All these can serve to widen our horizons of this planet on which we inhabit.</p>	<p><u>Topic sentence</u></p> <p><u>Elaboration</u> The whys and hows. Notice how there seems to be nothing else to go on saying other than the obvious use of e.g. But this point on widening horizon can be further</p>

c/f → the past
→ an inferior/superior
altern.
→ always e.g.

<p>This is unlike accessing information through books or the internet. With these, one only gets to use his sense of sight. But when you travel, all your five senses partake in the experience. You not only get to see something, but you also get to touch the thing, smell the air, listen to the running water in the brook, and even taste the local food! It is thus important to travel to widen our horizons as only traveling can afford us that kind of direct interaction that ‘completes’ our experience.</p>	<p>made clearer through <i>contrasting traveling with books or internet</i>, showing how traveling is more superior and hence very important (what qn asks).</p>
--	--

(iii) Do a rebuttal

Text	Comments
<p>Qn: Does globalization necessarily lead to a better world?</p> <p>Aside from the social aspect, globalization can have a negative impact on the cultural arena too. Unlike what most critics had argued, I am convinced that the forces of globalization can actually ‘<i>contaminate</i>’ <i>instead of enrich our native culture</i>. No doubt positive cultural elements can seep into the country with globalization, we must also not forget that the opposite is possible too. While open to the benefits of cultural exchange, we are equally susceptible to the influx of undesirable cultural elements that can have a ‘polluting’ effect on our own culture.</p>	<p><u>Topic sentence</u> Note sub-T.S.</p> <p><u>Elaboration</u> Notice how the rebuttal is executed here. It is <i>linked up to the earlier point raised by others</i> via the format: Unlike what most critics had argued, I am convinced that instead of.....</p>

3) Examples

These are crucial as they function as *evidence* to your elaboration, without which your argument won’t be convincing. If you look at the above exemplar paras again, you will notice that the writer is merely arguing using only logic (how? why?). Logic alone is insufficient. In other words, your elaboration is all ‘hot air’ if examples are not forthcoming to support it, which is the case for all the exemplar paras given above. Rationalize it this way: in a courtroom, it is not enough for the lawyer to just argue and give reasons to the judge. He needs to provide evidence, be it in the form of exhibits or witnesses. The judge cannot pass a verdict based on logic alone, he needs to be swayed by evidence, which are iron, indisputable, hardcore facts. The best examples are those from current affairs, i.e. your weekly journals (now you see why you have to do that dreaded weekly ritual!).

Some pointers regarding giving examples:

- (i) try to signal your examples via the phrases: For example, For instance, One recent/such example is.....

- (ii) examples should preferably be concrete or specific ones (i.e. spell out the names or statistics):

Qn: Is competition always unhealthy?

- For example, some athletes may resort to cheating during competitions. X
- For example, Ben Johnson was caught using steroids in the 1998 Seoul Olympics. ✓

- (iii) don't just list a string of examples or do a 'touch-and-go' affair; narrowed down to just one or two for greater focus and discuss them briefly:

Qn: "Nothing good ever comes out of disasters." Do you agree?

- For example, the Gujarat earthquake. X
- For example, during the tragic earthquake in Gujarat, India in 2001, the Pakistani government actually called on the Indian leaders to express their condolences. This signaled the first time in years when the two long-time deadly enemies actually broke ice and showed any gesture of good-will towards each other. ✓

Now read this final full-version of a typical para modeled after the tri-partite structure:

Text	Comments
<p>Qn: Does globalization necessarily lead to a better world?</p> <p>Many critics feel that globalization leads to a better world from the cultural perspective. <i>This is because it can serve to enrich our local culture.</i> With globalization, barriers are rendered permeable, thus allowing foreign cultural influences to seep in. We can 'borrow' the positive qualities of these cultures to plug the loopholes in our own native culture, thereby boosting and enriching it in the process.</p> <p>For example, given the relatively more conservative nature of our Asian culture that preaches self-contentment and risk-aversion, we can certainly benefit tremendously from the traits of Western culture that emphasize risk-taking and creativity. These latter would certainly help to evolve our native culture into a better and more balanced one.</p>	<p><u>Topic Sentence</u> Note also the sub-T.S. that follows</p> <p><u>Elaboration</u> - note the way in which the 'why?' and 'how?' targeted at the topic sentence can help flesh out the para.</p> <p><u>Example</u> -signal with 'For example' -specify the example: risk-taking and creativity -discuss example by contrasting with Asian culture, showing how Western one is beneficial</p> <p>-tail-link: an appendage to the 3-part structure of para devmt. Helps to anchor a long para to the qn.</p>

TOPIC SENTENCE

Besides rising female leaders, many feel that woman will also triumph in the world of tomorrow because of advancements in technology.

ELABORATION

(WHY?)

Woman may be physically weaker than man but technology can help to compensate for this shortcoming in woman.

(HOW?)

With increased mechanization, manual work is now gradually being replaced by machinery. This removes the need for physical strength, which is lacking in woman. In place of raw physical strength, all that is needed is brain power which gives one the ability to operate the machines.

(COMPARE/CONTRAST)

Without technology, woman is likened to being 'handicapped', reduced to weak beings who have no choice but to rely on their stronger male counterparts for survival. Woman thus needs technology to empower them in order to be at the same level as man.

EXAMPLE

For example, behind the computer or at the other end of the phone line, both man and woman are the same, regardless of who is more muscular. Furthermore, there is also a sense of anonymity involved behind the medium of machines as the communicating parties cannot see each other. This will reduce the chances of discrimination that may discredit woman. In such a situation, woman may stand a better chance of beating their male counterparts.

TAIL-LINK

Hence, it may be true that with the help of technology, the world of the future could belong to woman.