Paragraph Support

Tips for Writing a Concise and Well-Supported Paragraph

1. Determine the main idea. This should be one of the supporting points in your thesis statement.

2. Write a topic sentence.

3. Use the Tell and Show method. Make your claim and then provide support in the form of examples, statistics, or other evidence. Including many claims without supporting evidence will cause your essay to be too general and underdeveloped. Be sure to use a mixture of quotes, paraphrases, statistics etc.

   **Tell:** After travelling to Sienna, I began to be a more active person.

   **Show:** Instead of staying at home on weekends, I began to venture out for hikes on the weekend so I could enjoy the natural beauty of the area in which I lived.

**TIP:** Make sure that all of your claims and evidence relate back to your topic sentence. If there are sentences that don’t match your topic sentence, remove them or put them in a more relevant part of your paper.

**Practice: Label the sentences T (tell) or S (show)**

___ Culture tends to play a role in the workplace, although it is not often obvious.

___ During a job interview, I was asked whether I had “motherly responsibilities” at home that would interfere with my work.

___ For example, my co-workers ask me questions about India, even though I have lived in the U.S. my whole life.

___ I have often experienced discrimination based on my gender and my ethnicity.

___ Many companies now offer training to help combat discrimination in the workplace.

___ Many people think that prejudice and discrimination are no longer a problem.

___ People believe that while advances in equality have been made, there are still groups that are treated unfairly and require activism to ensure their equal rights.

___ Training for diversity awareness, cross cultural communication, and workplace sensitivity are now being required by many companies.

___ Taylor asserts that only 30% of companies require diversity training.

Find out more. Search the web or a grammar book for: concise paragraphs, supporting paragraphs, paragraph development or read sample essays and underline tell and show sentences.