**REVIEW: TYPES OF PARAGRAPHS**

There are four basic types of paragraphs or **purposes of writing**

* A **descriptive** paragraphis one in which the sentences work together to present a single, clear picture/description of a person, place, object or idea. It describes the subject in detail using sensory appeal and imagery.
* A **narrative** paragraph tells the events of a story usually in the order in which they happened.
* An **expository** paragraph explains basic information. It presents facts, gives directions, defines terms, etc. This type of writing can be used when you wish to present or explain facts or ideas.
* A **persuasive** paragraph presents information to support or prove a point. It expresses an opinion and tries to convince the reader that the opinion is correct or valid.

Let’s review the basic components of a paragraph:

1. **Topic sentence** – Begin the paragraph with a statement that catches the reader’s attention and indicates what the paragraph will be about
2. **Body** – Develop your carefully chosen points in five to six sentences. Use facts, opinions, quotations, examples, rhetorical devices, etc. to support our topic. Keep in mind what the ***purpose***of your paragraph is. Use transition words when appropriate (ie. And, also, as well, in addition, although, first, last, etc.).
3. **Conclusion** – Wrap up your points in a carefully worded concluding statement. Consider what main idea you want your reader to take away from this paragraph by restating the topic in a creative way. Again, this will depend on your *purpose*, and your *audience*.

The **audience** is an important variable because you must consider how your intended reader is going to feel about your writing. You must consider your tone very carefully.

**ASSIGNMENT**

Write THREE paragraphs, each for a different purpose. PLAN!

* Each paragraph should be no longer than eight sentences, so make every word and sentence count.
* Use the same topic for each paragraph
* Provide a creative title for each paragraph and identify the type of paragraph
* Spelling, grammar, and punctuation count, so PROOF READ!
* Choose your best paragraph and make a clear sign beside it (star, for example).

Some ideas to get you started: view as two pages\*

**Expository**:

* How to eat a taco/brush your teeth/entertain a young child/get in shape/get good marks/do your hair every morning
* The causes of acid rain/acne/hiccups/snoring/cheating/child abuse
* Kinds of fads/music/commercials/heroes/chores
* Definition of a browner/generation gap/loyalty
* Social, environmental, historical, political – value, issue, situation

**Narrative**:

* When you found out that there is no Santa Clause/Easter Bunny/Tooth Fairy, etc.
* The most embarrassing moment of your life
* The biggest mistake you every made
* A time you got hurt (physically or emotionally)
* How you learned about the “harsh realities of life”
* Coming to Canada (what your first day in Canada was like)
* The moment you “fell in love”/your first crush
* Turning point in your life/a valuable lesson learned

**Descriptive**:

* Person: describe your best friend/your favourite teacher/you coach/teammate/sibling (favourite of most “loathed”)/someone who taught you something really important/someone who really bugs you/your favourite actor/band/singer/athlete
* Place: your room/your locker/your house/your neighbourhood/the bottom of your backpack/your favourite handout/your favourite vacation spot/a classroom/the cafeteria
* Object: a pet/a book/a movie/a video game/a treasured possession/a pet peeve/poster/billboard/photograph/a favourite pen/piece of jewellery

**Persuasive**:

* Why school uniform aren’t a good idea
* Something that is unfair
* Something that needs to be improved
* Something that deserves support
* Why 8:19 isn’t a good time for school
* Why exams should be abolished or should be at least 30% of report card mark
* Social, environmental, political, religious, historical issue