**Checklist for a Proficient Paragraph**

* Clear topic sentence (relates to prompt)

**Topic Sentence**

* **States what paragraph will be about**
* **Grabs reader’s attention**
* **Doesn’t give *specific* information**
* Background Information
* Main Point # 1
* Explain/Prove it

**Main Points**

* **At least 3 in a paragraph**
* **Breaks topic up into smaller pieces**
* **All relate back to topic sentence**
* Explain/Prove it
* Main Point # 2
* Explain/Prove it

**Explain/Prove Its**

* **Explains main point**
* **Give *exampl*es of main point**
* **Add SPECIFIC details about MP**
* Explain/Prove it
* Main Point # 3

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **4** **(Advanced)** | **3** **(Proficient)** | **2** **(Partially Proficient)** | **1** **(Unsatisfactory)** |
| A strong, clearly written paragraph which:* Includes a unique topic sentence
* Includes relevant, interesting background information
* Contains at least 3 strong main points that all relate to the prompt and support the topic sentence
* Contains strong explanations/prove its for each main point that connect both to main point and back to topic sentence
* Includes unique concluding statement giving final thoughts
 | A clearly written paragraph which:* Includes a clear topic sentence (ex. O/P; compound sentence; restate prompt)
* Includes relevant background information
* Contains at least 3 main points that all relate to the prompt and connect to the topic sentence
* Contains at least two explanations/prove its for each main point that connect to main point
* Includes clear concluding sentence
 | A paragraph which:* Attempts a topic sentence
* Attempts background information
* Contains 2 main points/details that relate to the topic/prompt and connect to the topic sentence
* Missing or irrelevant explanations/prove its for SOME main points
* Attempts a concluding sentence
 | A paragraph which:* Does not include a topic sentence
* Does not include background information
* Contains 0-1 main points that relate to the topic/prompt and connect to the topic sentence
* Contains FEW/NO relevant explanations/ prove its
* Does not include a concluding sentence
 |

* Explain/Prove it

**Concluding Sentence**

* **Connects back to topic sentence**
* **Doesn’t give *new* information**
* **Makes paragraph feel finished**
* Explain/Prove it
* Clear concluding sentence which connects back to topic sentence