**The Structure of a Paragraph**

**What is a paragraph?**

A paragraph is a group of sentences about a single topic. Together, the sentences of the paragraph explain the writer's main idea (most important idea) about the topic. In academic writing, a paragraph is often between five and ten sentences long, but it can be longer or shorter, depending on the topic. The first sentence of a paragraph is usually indented (moved in) a few spaces.

**Paragraph Organization**

**What makes a paragraph?**

A paragraph has three basic parts:

1- **The Topic Sentence**: This is the main idea of the paragraph. It is usually the first sentence of the paragraph, and it is the most general sentence of the paragraph. It always gives the writer's main idea or opinion about the topic and helps the reader understand what the paragraph is going to talk about.

2- **The Supporting Sentences**: These are sentences that talk about or explain the topic sentence. They are more detailed ideas that follow the topic sentence.

3- **The Concluding Sentence**. This may be found as the last sentence of a paragraph. It can finish a paragraph by repeating the main idea or just giving a final comment about the topic.