Paragraph Templates

Template #1: A graphic organizer that you can use to organize ideas for a single paragraph in note form.

Template #2: A corresponding template that you can use to write the rough draft in complete sentences.

Note: If you need to write a multiparagraph composition, you can still use these formats for each paragraph, and then put them together.

1 Janet M. Parady, M.S.Ed. is head of the high school Language Arts Department at Landmark School (http://www.landmarkoutreach.org/) in Prides Crossing, Massachusetts and co-author of The Trickster in Africa and African-American Folktales.

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Paragraph Template #1:
Graphic Organizer
Janet Parady, M.S.Ed. and Margo White, M.S.Ed.¹

Topic (main idea):

Controlling idea (what you’re saying about the main idea):

Ideas for a concluding sentence (restate main idea, draw conclusion, state opinion, summarize points):

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Paragraph Template #2
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Topic Sentence (combination of topic and controlling idea): ________________

Detail Sentence #1: ______________________________________________________

Elaboration Sentence #1: ________________________________________________

Detail Sentence #2: ______________________________________________________

Elaboration Sentence #2: ________________________________________________

Detail Sentence #3: ______________________________________________________

Elaboration Sentence #3: ________________________________________________

Concluding Sentence: ____________________________________________________

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