

YORKWAC Infobase

Basic Paragraph Format

A *paragraph* develops a single idea in detail and advances your *argument* by providing support for your paper's *thesis*.

A paragraph consists of three basic parts:

1. Topic sentence

States the main idea of the paragraph

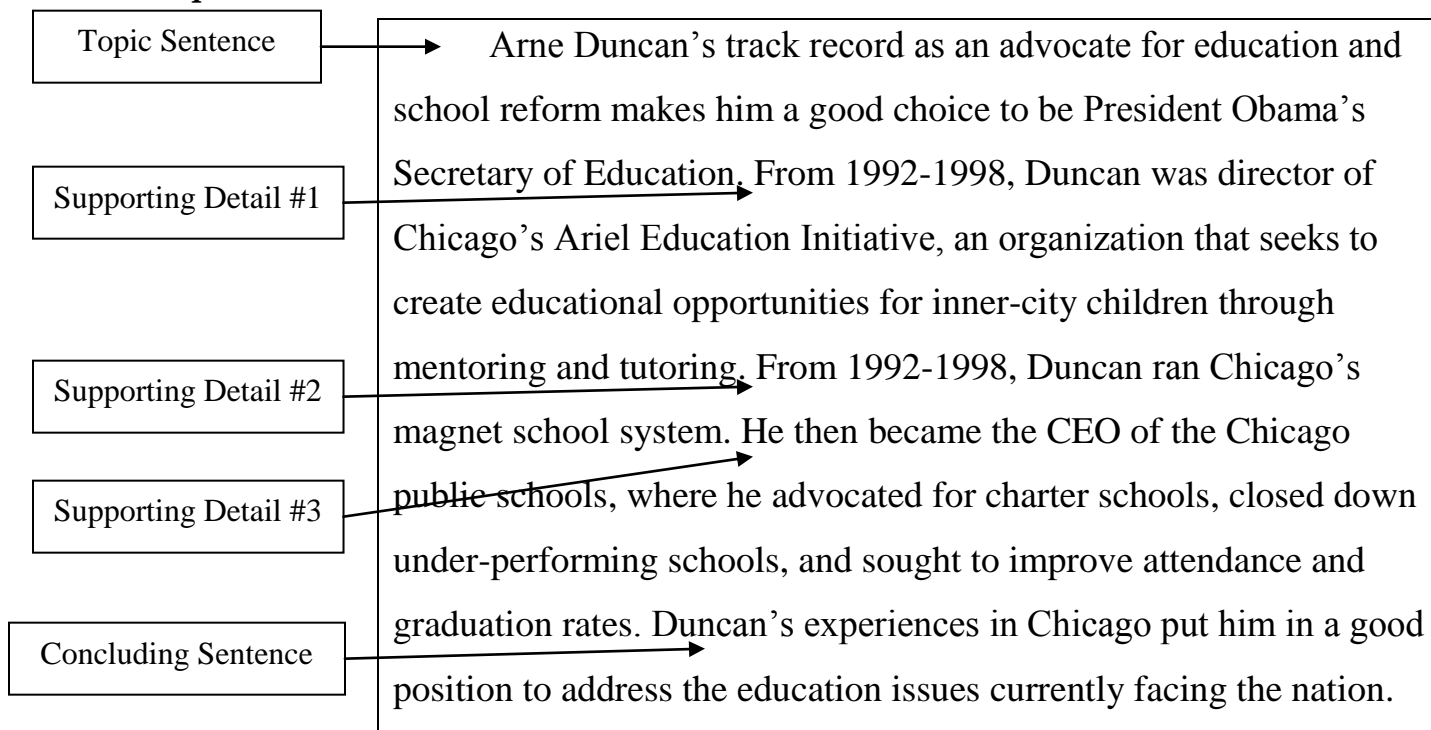
2. Supporting details

Elaborate upon the main idea

3. Concluding sentence

Ties together the ideas included in the paragraph, reiterates the main idea, and provides a transition to the next paragraph

Example



Source: "Obama Chooses Arne Duncan for Secretary of Education." Post on *Edu News Blog*. Dated December 18, 2008. Available at <http://www.eduinreview.com/blog/2008/12/obama-chooses-arne-duncan-for-secretary-of-education/>.

Consult the **YORKWAC Infobase** for additional Infosheets on different types of paragraph organization and how you can use them in your writing assignment.