AN OUTLINE FORMAT

Another important aspect of a well-written paragraph is writing about one (1) topic. Sometimes before the topic sentence there is a general information sentence. Then, there is a topic sentence. Next, the topic sentence is supported by major ideas. There are at least three (3) major ideas for long paragraphs that have twelve (12) to fifteen (15) sentences. The major ideas are supported by minor details, which generally come in pairs. At the end of the paragraph is a conclusion sentence. The diagram below shows an outline format:

I. General information sentence

II. Topic sentence
   A. Major Idea sentence
      1. minor details (facts, examples, experience) sentence
      2. minor details (facts, examples, experience) sentence
   B. Major Idea sentence
      1. minor details (facts, examples, experience) sentence
      2. minor details (facts, examples, experience) sentence
      3. minor details (facts, examples, experience) sentence
   C. Major Idea sentence
      1. minor details (facts, examples, experience) sentence
      2. minor details (facts, examples, experience) sentence

III. Conclusion sentences.