Developing a Paragraph

1. **Write a topic sentence.**
   
   A topic sentence introduces the reader to the main idea discussed in the paragraph.
   
   **INCLUDE**
   - A transition from the topic of the previous paragraph
   - Key terms/phrases that relate to your thesis statement
   
   **DON’T INCLUDE**
   - New information or evidence
   - A simple statement of fact
   - A summary of the idea

   **Practice:**

2. **List discussion points**
   
   The discussion of the paragraph’s main idea should include not only relevant information, but an analysis of how the information supports the idea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Point: (Source: )</th>
<th>How it supports the main idea:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Write the paragraph**
   
   Write several sentences to explain, explore, and describe the idea stated in the topic sentence. Be sure to cite any sources used in your discussion points.
Developing a Paragraph