

# Parts of an Essay

## *Introductory Paragraph*

- ✓ **Lead** (something interesting to hook your reader)
- ✓ **3 Preview Points** (the 3 categories you are going to discuss - What's the point?)
- ✓ **Thesis statement** (What the whole essay is about)  
(In compare and contrast it is always about the 2 items having similarities and differences)

## *Body Paragraph 1:*

- ✓ **Topic Sentence** (preview point #1)
  - ✓ **What about it?** (2-3 big details to support your topic sentence)
  - ✓ **Show me** (give specific details for each of the big details)  
(for compare and contrast essays, give specific details about similarities and differences for each item you are comparing)

*Elaboration strategies: language of topic, anecdote, direct quotation, specific nouns, vivid verbs, parallel construction, facts and statistics, sensory details, examples, names, thoughtshot, simile, metaphor, interesting word choice/vocabulary.*

- ✓ **Wrap Sentence** (sums up your paragraph; related to topic sentence)

## *Body Paragraph 2:*

- ✓ Same structure; topic sentence is preview point #2

## *Body Paragraph 3:*

- ✓ Same structure; topic sentence is preview point #3

## *Conclusion*

- ✓ **Restate preview points**
- ✓ **Restate thesis**
- ✓ **Thought Extension** (additional information or fact that leaves your reader with something to think about)
- ✓ **Clincher** (the big wrap sentence that ends your whole essay)

\*\*\*\*\*Remember to use transitions throughout your essay\*\*\*\*\*

# Color Coding a Paragraph

Body

**Topic Sentence** → black

**Body** → each detail sentence is underlined in green

**Supporting examples or explanation** for *each detail* are underlined in the following order →

red

blue

yellow

purple

orange

brown

**Closing sentence (wrap)** → black

Preview pts. / reasons	details	examples
black	green	Colors