**Paragraph Examples**

**Paragraph Example 1:** Student Written Ex.

The Student Center

Eating in the Student Center is a pleasant experience. First the food is excellent. It is well prepared, it tastes delicious, and there are many different kinds of food like hamburgers, tacos, pizza, and chicken. Moreover, each person serves his or herself, selecting just what he or she wants. Second, the environment in the Student Center is positive. Many happy young people are talking and laughing. However, the atmosphere is still calm; it's possible to study and do homework. Finally, there are many friendly people in the Student Center. Even the strangers say, “Hi!” and offer to share their tables. When that happens, practice in speaking English and friendship often follow. For these reasons, it is nice to go to the student center cafeteria once in a while to enjoy the eating, studying, and talking with new people.

-Sergio Pas (Honduras), Paragraph Writing

**Paragraph Example 2**

My Job in an Apple Plant

Working in an apple plant was the worst job I ever had. First of all, the work was physically hard. For ten hours a night, I took cartons that rolled down a metal track and stacked them onto wooden stands in a tractor-trailer. Each carton contained twenty-five pounds of bottled apple juice, and they came down the track fast. The second bad feature of the job was the pay. I was getting the minimum wage at that time, $3.25 an hour. I had to work over sixty hours a week to get a decent take-home pay. Finally, I hated the working conditions. We were limited to two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid half hour for lunch. Most of my time was spent outside loading dock in the freezing cold. I was very lonely on the job because I had no interests in common with the other workers. I felt this isolation especially when the production line shut down for the night, and I spent two hours by myself cleaning the apple vats. The vats were an ugly place to be on a cold morning, and the job was a bitter one to have.

“English Skills” John Langan
Paragraph Example 3

Changes in the Family

Changes in our society in recent years have weakened family life. First of all, today's mothers spend much less time with their children. A generation ago, most houses got by on Dad’s paycheck, and Mom stayed home. Now many mothers work, and their children attend an after school program, stay with a neighbor, or go home to an empty house. Another change is that families no longer eat together. In the past, Mom would be home and fix a full dinner –salad, pot roast, potatoes, and vegetables, with homemade cake or pie to top it off. Dinner today is more likely to be takeout food or TV dinners eaten at home, or fast food eaten out, with different members of the family eating at different times. Finally, television has taken the place of family conversation and togetherness. Back when there were meals together, family members would have a chance to eat together, talk with each other, and share event of the day in a leisurely manner. But now families are more likely to be looking at the TV set than talking to one another. Many homes even have several TV sets, which people watch in separate rooms. Clearly, modern life is a challenge to family life.

“English Skills” John Langan
Outlines of Example Paragraphs

Outline of Example 1

Topic Sentence: Eating in the Student Center is a pleasant experience.

A. Food is excellent
   1. well-prepared and delicious
   2. many different foods (hamburgers, tacos, pizza and chicken)
   3. self-selection
B. Environment is positive
   1. happy young people talking
   2. calm atmosphere for study
C. People are friendly
   1. strangers say “Hi” and share tables
   2. conversation (practice in English)

Concluding Sentence: It is nice to go to the Student Center cafeteria once in a while to enjoy eating, studying and talking with new people.

Outline of Example 2

Topic Sentence: Working in an apple plant is the worst job I ever had.

A. __________________________
   1. Loading cartons onto skids for ten hours a night
   2. __________________________
B. __________________________
   1. __________________________
   2. Had to work sixty hours for decent take-home pay
C. __________________________
   1. Two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid lunch
   2. __________________________
   3. Loneliness on job
      a. No interests in common with other workers
      b. __________________________

Concluding Sentence: __________________________
Outline of Example 3

Topic Sentence: Changes in our society in recent years have weakened family life.

A. Mothers
   1. _____________________________________________________________
   2. _____________________________________________________________

B. Eating habits
   1. Formerly full homemade meals, eaten together
   2. _____________________________________________________________

C. ______________________________________________________________
   1. _____________________________________________________________
   2. _____________________________________________________________

Concluding Sentence: ___________________________________________