***MK University of Biskra Department of English***

***Second Year LMD Students Written Expression Courses***

**PARAGRAPH WRITING**

**Argumentative Paragraph**

**What is** **an argumentative paragraph?**

An argumentative paragraph is a kind of writing in which a writer tries to convince the reader to agree with him about a controversial topic. The writer uses arguments to support his point of view.

**Structure of the argumentative paragraph**

1. **Topic sentence**

The writer can start by giving the opposite opinion, and then he can introduce his point of view.

Examples:

1. Many people think that private schools deprives students of many right, **but the truth is the opposite.**
2. Although smoking is harmful, **I believe that smokers should** **have some rights, too.**
3. **Supporting sentences**

The writer, you support your opinion by introducing factual evidence such as examples, statistics, reasons, opinions ( at least three arguments) to explain or to prove why your point of view is correct.

However, the writer should adopt and defend only one point of view in that controversial topic, not both views. In other words, the writer has to be either ‘for ‘or ‘against’.

**Transitional words and phrases such as:**

First, second, besides, moreover, …

**Transitional words and phrases for the contrary view:**

Although, despite, but, however, nevertheless, …

1. **Concluding sentence**

Restates the topic sentence+ comment.

**Argumentative Paragraph Example**

**Immigration**

Despite recent concerns about immigration to the United States, **immigration** contributes **to the overall health** of the American economy. This country has largely **benefited from the skills, talents and ambitions** that immigrants bring with them. **American businesses gain** from it a good source of affordable labour while thousand cities are revitalized by immigrant **families who strengthen communities** through civic participation and the generation of new economic activity. To conclude, the United States must continue to welcome the **new concerns** for their positive influence on the economic machine of the country.

**Practice: Choose one of the following topics and compose a well written argumentative paragraph that is clear in its topic sentence, examples, language.**

**Topic 1:** Should working mothers be given special privileges?

**Topic 2:** Can smoking be prevented by making tobacco illegal?