

Paragraph Development: 4 Techniques

Here is a sample topic sentence and first point.

“In addition to the wonderful teachers, HGTC is also a great school because it has great facilities. First, the library is fantastic.”

Obviously, this point (“the library is fantastic”) needs development if we want it to be clear for our readers. Here are 4 ways we can accomplish this.

- **Use Examples and Illustrations**

“In addition to the wonderful teachers, HGTC is also a great school because it has great facilities. First, the library is fantastic. Our library has books on almost any subject imaginable. There are reference books for those times when you need quick, reliable information, but there are also many fiction books for entertainment. In addition to all the books, HGTC’s library has magazine and newspaper racks that contain the latest editions of these publications. If you cannot find what you’re looking for in print, then you can sit at one of the library’s many computers, which have access to many helpful databases of information.”

- **Use an Anecdote or Story**

“In addition to the wonderful teachers, HGTC is also a great school because it has great facilities. First, the library is fantastic. In fact, when I was working on a research paper last semester, I was shocked at the amount of resources contained within this one facility. My research topic, whale farming, was a bit obscure, and yet, I was able to find many resources to help me better understand the topic. By the time I left that facility, I had three books that contained information about whale farming, but I also had many journal articles and even one video.”

- **Define Terms**

“In addition to the wonderful teachers, HGTC is also a great school because it has great facilities. First, the library is fantastic. I say ‘fantastic’ because in order for a library to be fantastic, it must have all the latest technologies alongside the traditional research methods. HGTC’s library certainly has both. There are rows of computers that have access to not only the internet but also to dozens and dozens of online databases where articles from newspapers, magazines and journals have been scanned in for easy access and searching. However, the library also has rows of books and magazines and even racks of current, printed newspapers too.”

- **Compare and Contrast**

“In addition to the wonderful teachers, HGTC is also a great school because it has great facilities. First, the library is fantastic. Unlike many of the libraries I’ve been in, HGTC’s library is much more relaxing and complete. For instance, the library in my hometown of Tinkertown, MO, has ceramic tiles on the floor, which gives it a really cold, uninviting feeling, and their collections are lacking because they don’t have many books and only two computers, which are incredibly outdated. However, HGTC’s library is very inviting. They have carpet on the floors and couches throughout the place, where you can sit and relax as you study or read for pleasure. They also have many current editions of books and journals and many new computers where a student can access information or email.”