

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Analyzing Paragraphs**

## Paragraphs with Purpose



Effective paragraphs are important. Paragraphs help your reader navigate through a piece of writing by introducing, explaining, substantiating or supporting a thesis statement or claim. An effective paragraph should establish or support a single point or idea, and can be broken down into three parts: claim, evidence and analysis. The same can be said of an effective piece of writing. In a non-fiction text like an article or an essay, each paragraph should serve a single purpose: introducing a claim, offering evidence or analysis, or drawing a conclusion.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the assigned text. For each paragraph, answer the following questions on a separate sheet:

1. Does this paragraph introduce, support or explain, or draw a conclusion regarding the central idea of the text?
2. What is the thesis statement or claim in this paragraph?
3. Does this paragraph support the thesis statement or claim of the overall text, or offer analysis (of evidence or counterarguments)? Explain your answer.
4. How does this paragraph relate to the previous paragraphs in the text?
5. How does the author connect it to the previous paragraph?
6. How does the author connect it to the paragraph that follows?