

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

# Analyzing Paragraphs for Persuasion

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 of paper:

1. Does this paragraph introduce, support or explain, or draw a conclusion regarding the author's argument?
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)?
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?
7. Indicate any persuasive strategies that the author uses in this paragraph.



- The author mentions research.
- The author appeals to the reader's emotions.
- The author uses the bandwagon technique (everyone else believes this so you should too).
- The author's tone makes her seem believable and trustworthy.
- The author quotes experts.
- The author includes credible data.
- The author includes real world examples