**Paragraph Structure: The Micro Essay**

Most papers or essays are structured using the following parts:

1. The paper’s introduction and thesis statement provide background information about the paper’s topic and give readers an idea of what the paper will be about or will argue.
2. The body paragraphs support and provide evidence for the thesis statement.
3. The conclusion sums up the paper’s argument while answering a “so what?” question or explaining why readers should care about the paper or its argument.

A paper’s body paragraphs can be seen as smaller versions of this structure, as micro essays. These paragraphs or micro essays will contain parts that are similar to those in the larger paper.

**Part One: The Topic Sentence**

The topic sentence is the first sentence of the paragraph and works as a mini thesis for the micro essay. The topic sentence explains the main point of the paragraph or micro essay while linking it to the thesis of the larger paper.

For example, if the paper is arguing that dogs make the best pets and the first paragraph will focus on dogs’ loyalty, then a good topic sentence would be as follows: “Dogs are great pets because they are loyal to their masters.”

**Part Two: Supporting Evidence**

The sentences that make up the body of the micro essay provide evidence that supports the topic sentence. In most papers, this information will come from the text the paper is focusing on or from secondary sources.

Considering the above sample topic sentence, good supporting evidence might include information about dog loyalty from dog experts, examples of or stories about real-life loyal dogs, or details regarding the ways dogs show loyalty.

**Part Three: Concluding Sentence**

The final sentence of the paragraph acts as the conclusion to the micro essay, summing up the point of the paragraph and explaining why it is important to the essay as a whole.

For example, following the topic sentence and evidence mentioned above, an effective concluding sentence for the paragraph might read as follows: “The loyalty that dogs show toward their masters makes them valuable companions and the best pets.”