**Don’t you think it’s time to start thinking?**  Paragraph Functions

**Paragraph 4** can be identified as an example paragraph. Frye incorporates James Thurber’s Walter Mitty to provide a concrete example of the misuse of the word think. In response to his wife’s asking what he was doing, Mitty states “Has it ever occurred to you that I might be thinking?” This example helps to support Frye’s thesis that thinking is articulating ideas until they are in the right words and when the correct definition of think is not known, the word can often be misused.

**Paragraph 5** is an example of a definition paragraph because Frye defines his own understanding of thinking. By criticizing the common uses of the word “thinking”, he sets limitations that thinking is not “worrying, remembering, day-dreaming”. He asserts that thinking is more complex than that, and thus requires training to achieve high order thinking. Frye communicates that his use of the word “thinking” in the essay refers to the ability to communicate clearly one’s ideas.

**Paragraph 7** is an example of a thesis paragraph. Frye expresses his main idea that” thinking is the practice of articulating ideas until they are in the right words”. Frye connects his earlier ideas about what it means to think with his later points that society lacks the ability to speak articulately. These points are embodied in the allusion to Pierre Trudeau.

**Paragraph 8** is a transition paragraph because Frye’s argument shifts from defining to reasoning. He believes individuals lack the ability to articulate ideas, and in this paragraph, he gives the reason as to why there’s such an incapacity. He points out that our society only views literacy as necessary to perform public services, but overlooks the fact that verbal competency is also an important factor in people’s lives and will affect an individual’s ability to think.

**Paragraph 10** is an example of an elaboration paragraph because it expands on the idea that there are “currents at work against the development of articulateness”. Paragraph 10 states that those strong currents are “articulate speech marking you out as an individual” and being an individual is a cause for concern. Frye also states that people are frightened and suspicious of articulateness. These “strong currents” are reason enough to use the “ready- made phrases” mentioned in paragraph 10 to hide yourself.