**EARL HAIG SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**Grade 12 English (ENG 4U)**

Functions of a Paragraph

A well written essay is composed of paragraphs which serve specific functions. Sometimes a single paragraph serves several functions. Some functions of paragraphs are as follows:

1. **Anecdotal paragraph**: a narrative which interests and informs in a reader-friendly way.
2. **Contextual paragraph**: provides background information for the argument or for the paradigm of the argument.
3. **Thesis paragraph**: provides the focus or central idea of the argument.
4. **Definition***:* the author defines terms important to the argument.
5. **Concession paragraph**: acknowledges that there are other sides to the issue and it contributes to the sense that the author is a thoughtful person.
6. **Example paragraph**: provides facts, statistics or a concrete example to help support the author's argument.
7. **Explanatory paragraph**: provides reasons why the facts/statistics are useful to our understanding of the argument.
8. **Elaboration paragraph**: supports the thesis by providing depth or breadth or both to the ideas presented.
9. **Transition paragraph**: shifts the focus of the argument.
10. **One sentence paragraph**: used to emphasize a point.
11. **Summation paragraph**: concludes a point within the essay or concludes the essay.