PARAGRAPHING

PARAGRAPHS are units of thought with one idea developed adequately. Listed here are some "rules of thumb" to use when paragraphing. These are only suggestions to help guide your writing; you must also consider your own purposes as you write.

Put only one main idea per paragraph.

- Aim for 3 to 5 or more sentences per paragraph
  
  Include on each page about 2 handwritten or 3 typed paragraphs.

- Make your paragraphs proportional to your paper. Since paragraphs do less work in short papers, have short paragraphs for short papers and longer paragraphs for longer papers.

  If you have a very few short paragraphs, think about whether they are really parts of a larger paragraph -- and can be combined -- or whether you can add details to support each point and thus make each into a more fully developed paragraph.

You can check on whether your paragraphs are balanced by looking at your paper.

Some balanced:

Unbalanced pages with ideas not equally developed:
Use this page to organize your paper with one main idea in each box. Use as many pages and boxes as you need.

(Developed by Murray Shugars 10/92)