**The 8-sentence Paragraph: The “Stand Alone” Paragraph**

**Terminology:**

1. **Stand-alone paragraph**: A paragraph that is not part of an essay, but is a complete piece of writing by itself. It contains a topic sentence, a middle, and a concluding sentence totaling 8 sentences.
2. **Topic sentence**: The first sentence in your paragraph. This is the subject of your paragraph.
3. **Concrete details (CD):** Specific details that form the core or backbone of your paragraph. Synonyms for concrete details include: Facts, specifics, examples, descriptions, proof, support, evidence, quotations, paraphrasing, plot references.
4. **Commentary (CM):** Your opinion or comment about something –NOT concrete detail. Synonyms for commentary include: opinion, insight, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, reflection.
5. **Concluding sentence**: The last sentence in the paragraph. It is ALL COMMENTARY, but does not repeat what has already been stated.

**8-Sentence Paragraph Structure**

1. **Topic sentence**
2. **CD**
3. **CM**
4. **CM**
5. **CD**
6. **CM**
7. **CM**
8. **Concluding sentence**