

## The “3.8” Paragraph Model

A “3.8” paragraph is a paragraph that makes **three points** in the following **eight** sentences:

1. The **topic sentence**, which clearly states what the writer wants the reader to know or understand after reading the paragraph. This idea is the controlling idea. In an essay, the topic sentence of a body paragraph should directly support or develop your thesis statement.
2. The **first general statement**, the first “point” supporting or developing the topic sentence.
3. The **first set of details**, supporting the first general statement or “point.”
4. The **second general statement**, the second “point” supporting or developing the topic sentence.
5. The **second set of details**, supporting the second general statement or “point.”
6. The **third general statement**, the third “point” supporting or developing the topic sentence.
7. The **third set of details**, supporting the third general statement or “point.”
8. The **concluding sentence** that restates what the writer wants the reader to know or understand after reading the paragraph (i.e., the controlling idea).

A general example of the 3.8 paragraph utilized in writing:

*The fall is definitely my favorite season of the year. First, it is the most beautiful of the four seasons. The leaves of the trees seem to explode into glorious colors: reds, oranges, golds, and browns. Next, the temperature in the fall is perfect. The days in the low seventies let people comfortably wear whatever clothes they like, and the nighttime temperatures make for a great night’s sleep. Finally, my favorite holiday of the year, Thanksgiving, is in the fall. It provides a few days off in the middle of the first months of school to visit with friends and family while enjoying delicious food. More than any other season, the fall is my favorite time of year.*