The Single Paragraph Essay/Expository Paragraph

The expository paragraph provides information to the reader. The writer explains a subject, gives directions, or demonstrates how something happens. Expository writing generally uses linking words like “first,” “second,” “then,” and “finally,” which helps the reader navigate through the paragraph. Other key characteristics of a single paragraph/expository paragraph essay include:

- **Indenting**: The writer must indent the first line.
- **One central idea** for each paragraph (i.e: If the assignment is about which fruit is the best tasting, the writer should not be discussing music).
- **Avoiding repetition of words in a paragraph, unless it is a key term**: A writer can use a synonym for words like “Moreover” and “Furthermore”. However, if the topic is a word like “apple”, then the writer will have to use the word “apple” more than once.
- **Including a thesis statement**: Typically, in a single paragraph essay, this is the first sentence, also known as a topic sentence, which is one sentence long and tells the reader what the paragraph will be about.
- **Supporting sentences**: Each sentence that is written after the topic sentence must be related to the topic sentence and follow one another in a logical sequence of steps. This helps keep the writer on topic and helps the reader better understand the main idea of the paragraph.

Supporting sentences provide the reader with details such as:

i. **Example(s)**: This allows the reader to get a clearer picture as to what the writer is trying to say

ii. **An explanation as to why the example(s) used are important**

**Note**: After providing an example, the writer must immediately write why the example used is important before they proceed with the next example.

- **A concluding sentence** that closes the subject in a clear manner by summarizing the details included in the supporting sentences.

**Note**: While this is an excellent source of reference, students are encouraged to check their syllabus and/or rubric to ensure they include all requirements of an assignment.