How to construct a basic body paragraph

1. Provide topic sentence. The topic sentence is the mini-thesis statement for your paragraph; it states the point that you will explore/prove in your paragraph.

2. Present evidence in the form of quotation, summary, statistics, etc.

3. Discuss of how the evidence connects to or demonstrates the topic sentence.

4. Connect back to the overarching thesis of the essay and/or transition to the next paragraph.

For Example:
Thesis: Joan Didion writes in her journal in order to disconnect from reality and focus her mind on the creation of a new reality through fiction.

Body Paragraph:

In her essay “On Keeping a Notebook,” Didion discusses how the purpose of keeping a notebook is not to record information but rather to connect back to her former selves. Didion states, “the point of my keeping a notebook has never been, nor is it now, to have an actual factual record of what I have been doing or thinking”(133). For Didion, what is important is her ability to invoke the memory and feeling of former events rather than the arbitrary details. In order to do so, she often disconnects from the reality of life. Didion states that not only does she not remember events accurately, she “remain[s] unconvinced that the distinction, for my purposes, matters”(134). The result of Didion’s disregard for the truth is that she is then able to be more effective as a writer of fiction whose job is to create a new reality.