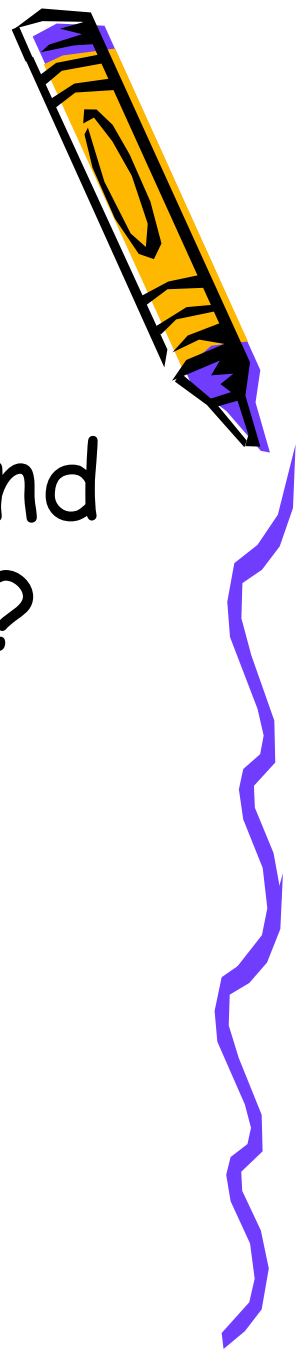# Character Counts & Step Up To Writing

- EJ Marshall
- Mrs. Hirst/Mrs. Cobian
- September 24,2013
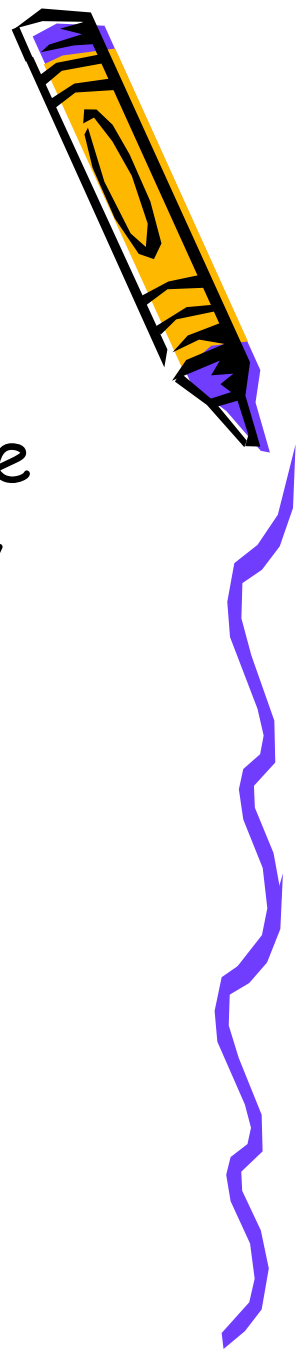
Objectives:

- What is character counts and how can you use it at home?

- What is the Step Up To Writing Process?
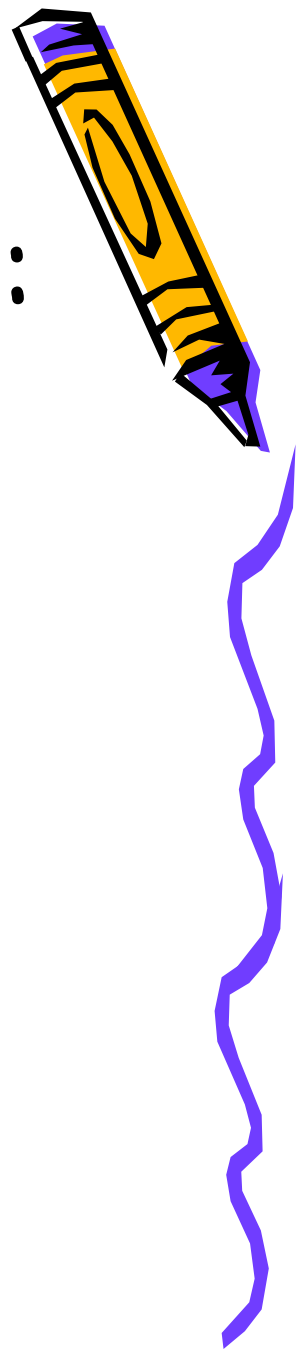
Two Kinds of Writing

- Information/ Expository
  - Compare
  - Contrast
  - Persuade
  - Identify
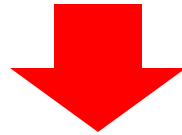 - Describe
  - Explain

- Story/Narrative
  - Children's story
  - Fairy tale
  - Legend
  - Mystery
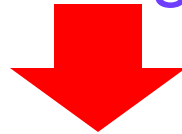 - Myth
  - Folk tale

Step Up To Writing is About The Writing Process:

Prewriting and Planning

Drafting, Revising, and Editing

Creating a Final Copy, Proofreading, and Sharing

Step Up To Writing is About Promoting the Traits of Good Writing:

Content   Vocabulary
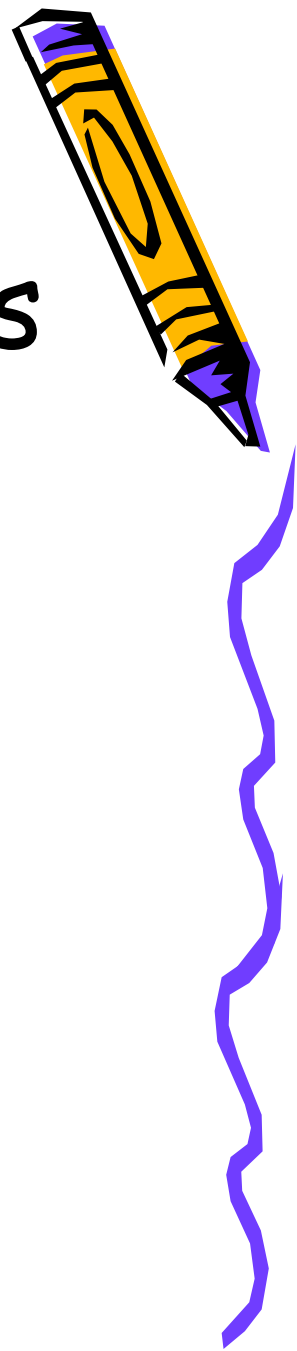
Organization   Sentence

Style   Structure

                 Conventions

Character counts is all about teaching about character development. One of the pillars is responsibility, meaning you are accountable for your actions. There are six total pillars. One important pillar is trustworthiness. You have to keep your word. You also need to be compassionate and show you care. You need to make sure you obey the rules and do your share to make your school a better place. Character counts teaches you to be honest and reliable.
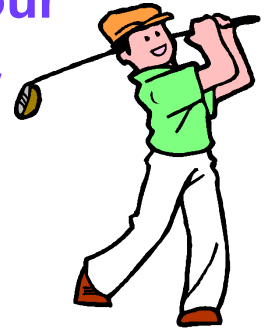
Does this seem like a well thought out, organized paragraph?

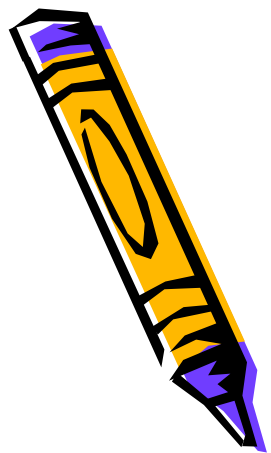That is called a brain dump!
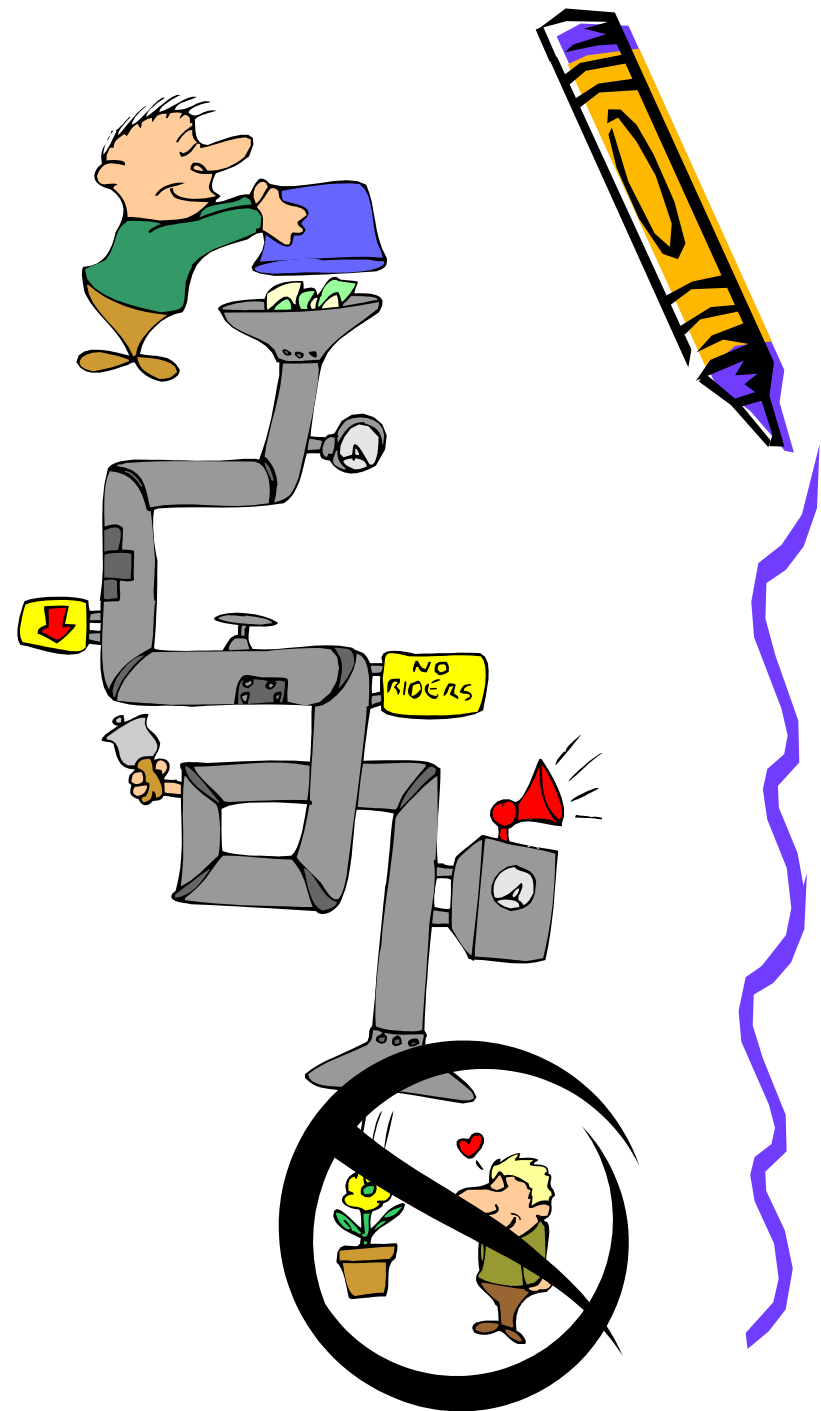
What happened?

- This student took all the information he/she knew about character counts and just regurgitated it onto paper!

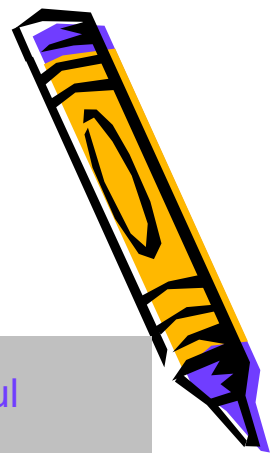# The keys to an effective paragraph:

Expository paragraphs need:

- A title

- A topic sentence

- Transitions

- Good explanations and examples

- A conclusion

The Six Pillars of Character Counts
Fifth Grade

Character education is an essential component of any successful school. Character Counts is a program that teaches character development. This program is based on six pillars of character. The first pillar is Trustworthiness. Being trustworthy means being honest and reliable. You need to follow through on what you say, and be loyal. The second pillar is respect. You must treat others as you would want to be treated. This also means being tolerant of differences, and considerate of others' feelings. The third pillar is responsibility. Doing what you are supposed to do, using self-control, and being accountable for your choices are all a part of being responsible. The fourth pillar is fairness. Fairness means playing by the rules and being open minded. You need to listen to others and not take advantage of anyone. The fifth pillar is caring. A caring person forgives and is compassionate. Finally, the last pillar is citizenship. A good citizen finds ways to help make their school and community a better place. They obey laws and rules. Clearly, the Character Counts program touches on all areas of character development and can have a positive effect on our schools.

That was better!
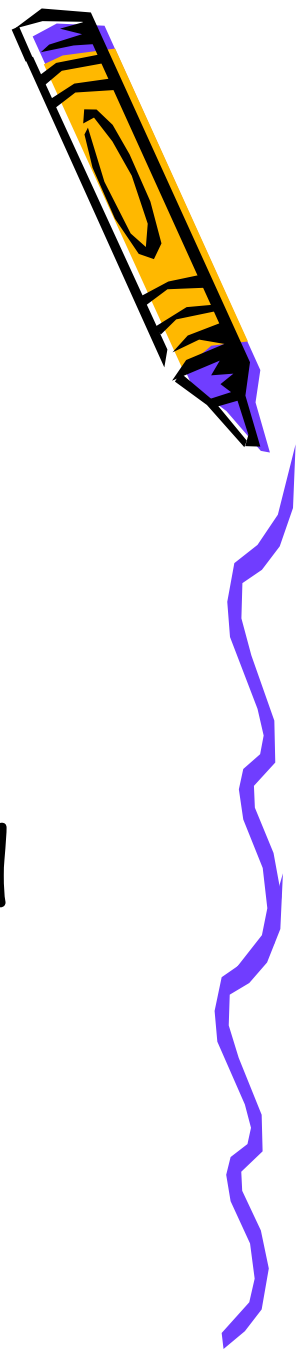
- Why?
- Organization!
- I will show you the process that 5th grade student used to get that level of organization.

The Five Elements of Expository Writing

Organization is the key.

Topic sentences and thesis statements are the heart.
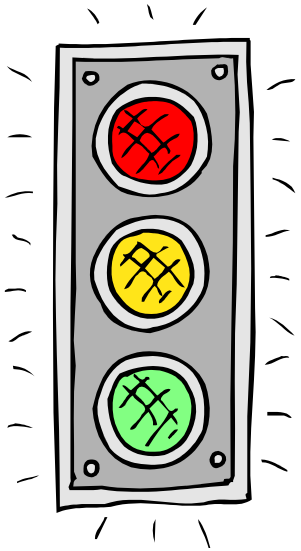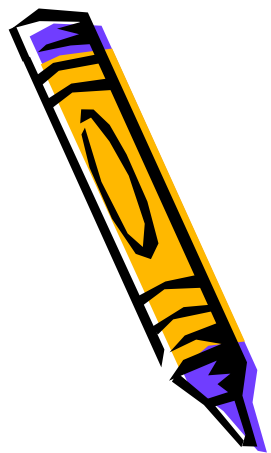
Transitions are the glue.

Examples, evidence, and explanations are the meat.

Conclusions tie it all together.

What is the deal

with the colors!

Go! Write a topic sentence.

SlowDown Give a reason, detail or fact.

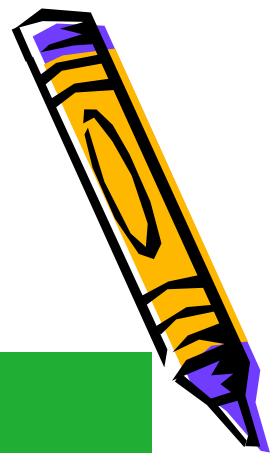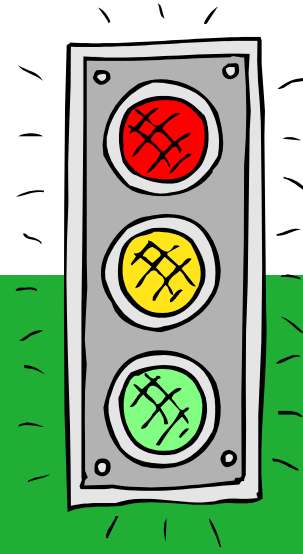Use a transition word or phrase.

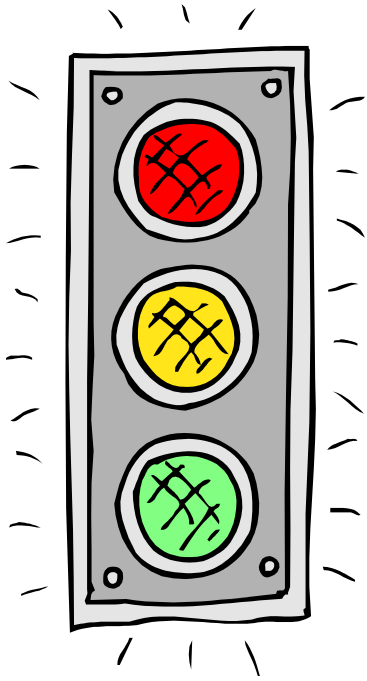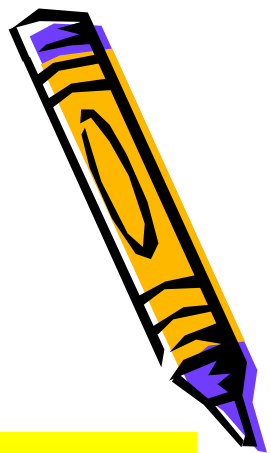Stop Explain. Gave an example.

Go Back Remind the reader of your topic.

Using Colors for Organization

Topic Sentence:

- Green means "go."

- Green asks the writer to decide —
  "What am I going to prove?"
  "What am I going to explain?"
  "What information will I share?"

Using Colors for Organization
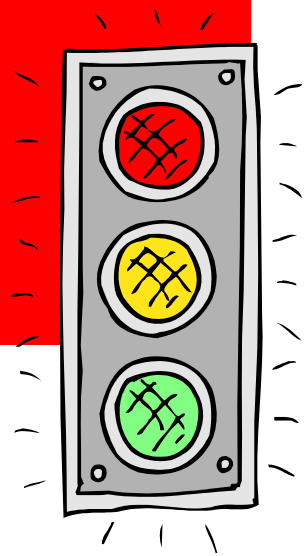
Reasons/Details/Facts:

- Yellow means "slow down."

- Introduce key concepts to support the topic sentence.
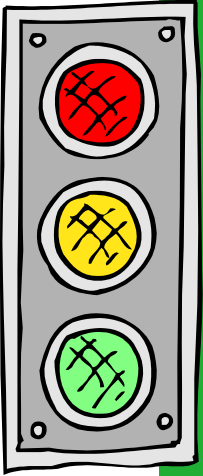
Using Colors for Organization

Explain:

- Red means "stop and explain."
- Present evidence.
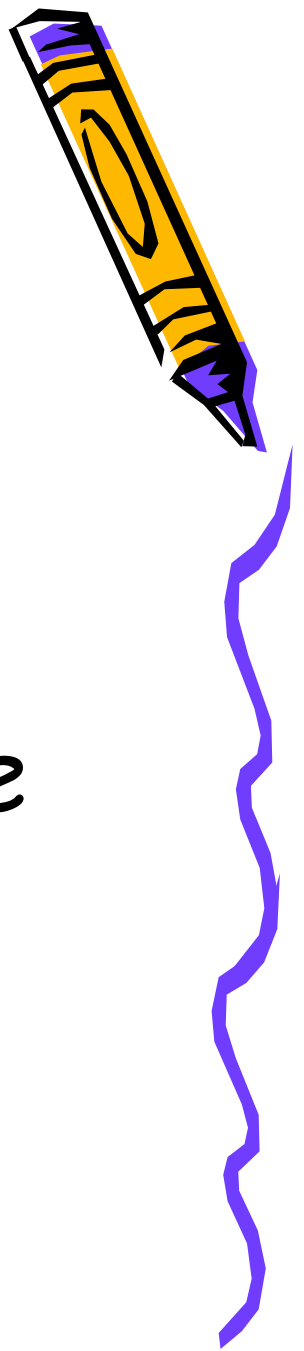- Provide explanation and examples.

Using Colors for Organization

Conclusion:

- Green means "go back to your topic."

- Restate the topic and the position.

- *Do not introduce new information*.

- Use synonyms and leave your reader with something to remember.

Step One:
Prewrite and Plan
Research Your Topic and Create an Informal Outline

Informal Outlines:

Using a piece of paper let's work on an <u>informal outline</u> of a paragraph.

Just

One or

Two words

See my example. You can just watch and listen, or you can do it along with me.
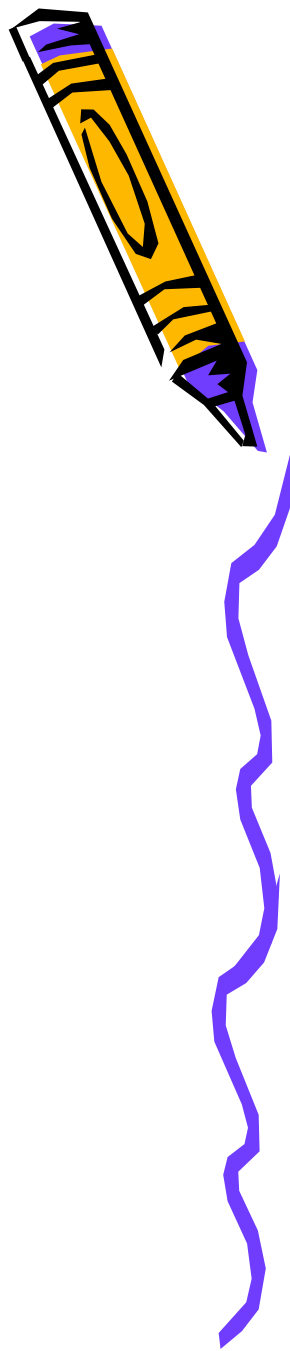With a partner read page two of the handout. Underline important ideas or things that stand out to you.
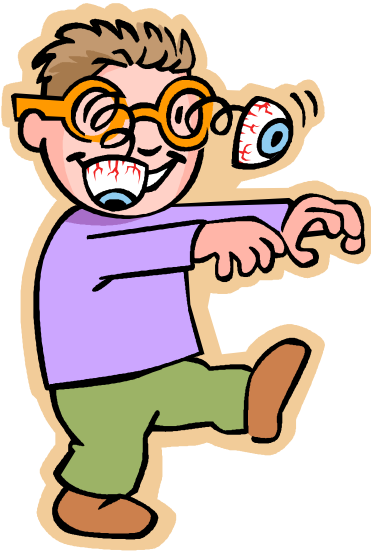
Next Step:
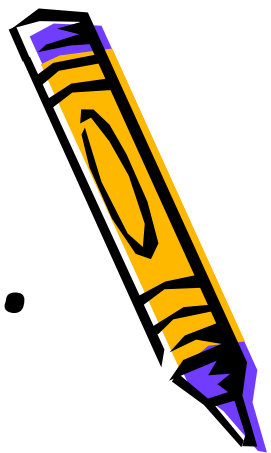# Turn your outline into a first draft
You may do it along with me on your paper, or just watch.

So now you see…

How to put together a well organized paragraph. But…

Don't get stuck!

- Many students will ask "How many sentences do I have to write?"

- This is the ZME (zone of minimal effort) talking.

With this process you can expand and shrink your paragraphs with ease.
The rule is: you should use as many sentences as is needed to explain what you have to say.
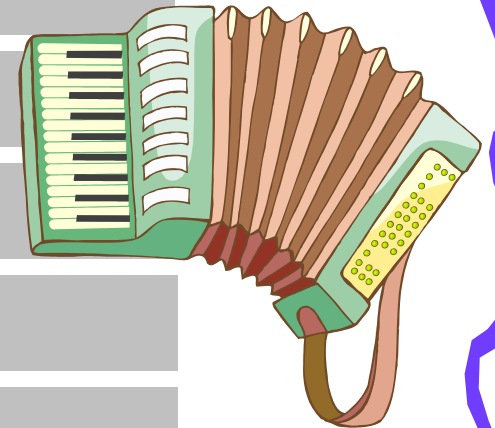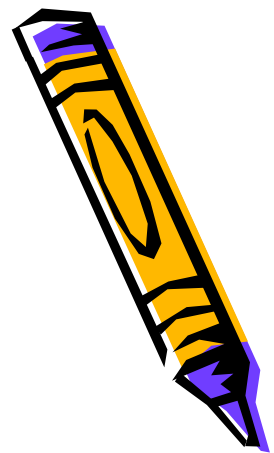
An Option:

Accordion Paragraphs

Eight Sentence Paragraph:

1.	Topic Sentence
2.	Reason/Detail/Fact
3.	Explain
4.	Reason/Detail/Fact
5.	Explain
6.	Reason/Detail/Fact
7.	Explain
8.	Conclusion

Another Option:

More Accordion Paragraphs

Eleven Sentence Paragraph:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.

Topic Sentence

Reason/Detail/Fact

Explain

Explain

Reason/Detail/Fact

Explain

Explain

Reason/Detail/Fact

Explain

Explain

Conclusion
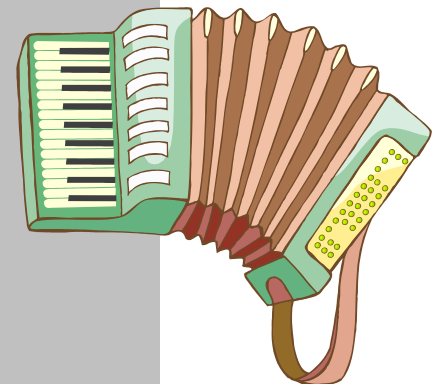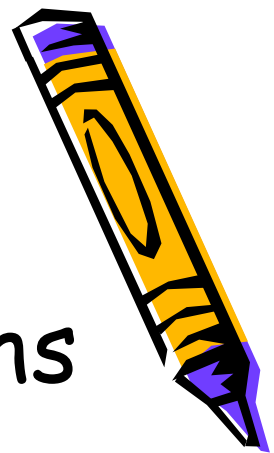
How About More Than One Paragraph

You can just add more "explain" pieces and make the "reason/detail/fact" sentence become the topic.

For example:

Paragraph → **Topic** = **Character Counts in the Home**

Paragraph → **R/D/F Teach**

       eExplain pillars
       eExamples of pillars
       eRead books that show

Paragraph → **R/D/F Enforce**

       eSet rules and consequences
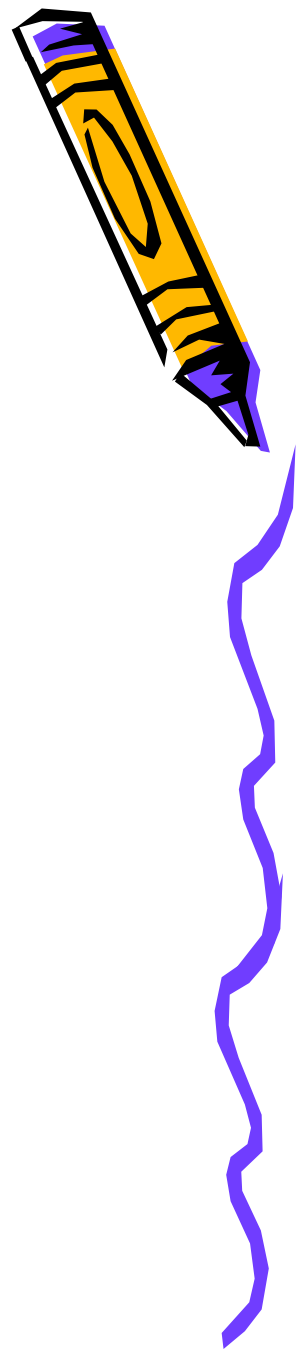
       eBe consistent

       eRewards
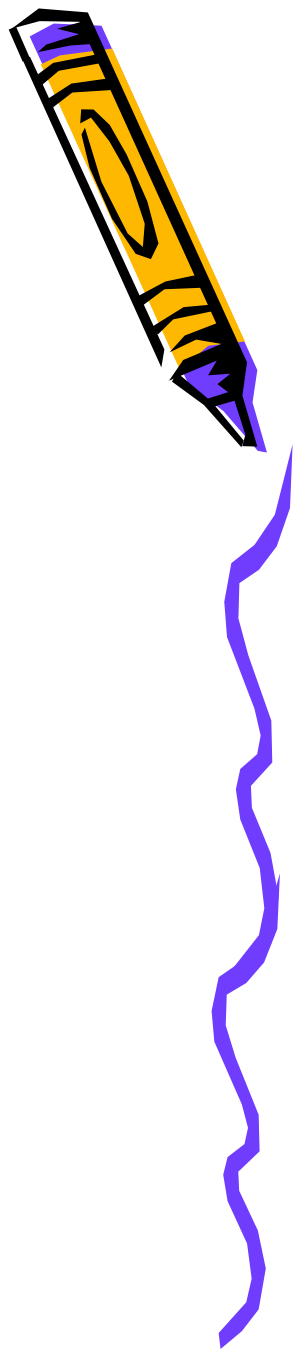
Paragraph → **R/D/F Model**

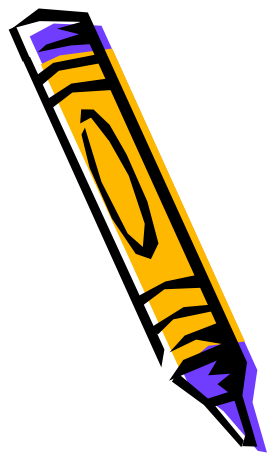   **eFollow the character pillars**

Paragraph *for the conclusion*

Turning your outline into a paper – teacher example

Questions??

Be sure your first and last name are on the back of all your tickets and place them in the basket!

Thank you for coming!