What the academic writer needs to know about paragraphing

1 Idea per Paragraph

• Your paragraphs must have a **Statement**.
• The following sentences provide **Evidence** and **Examples** for your statement.
• Your final sentence in each paragraph **Explains** how your statement supports your essay’s thesis.

**Thesis:** Dogs are a nuisance.

**Statement:** *Dogs are expensive to own.* First, breeders sell dogs from $200 to $2,000. Of course, people do adopt from local shelters, but in Santa Cruz County that will still cost a minimum of $200. After choosing a dog, there are regular costs to consider. A 25 pound bag of medium grade dog food costs $30 a month. Heart worm medicine cost $90 a year. If done by a professional, dog washing cost between $30 and $50, or you can buy your own bottle of specialty shampoo for $15. Many owners will also want to buy treats, toys, and bedding. In addition to regular costs, unexpected vet bills can spoil your plans for a vacation. My friend’s dog was run over by a truck, and Santa Cruz Emergency Animal Hospital charged her $6,000. One of the biggest ways *dogs are a nuisance* is how much they can drain the family bank account.

**Explanation:**

**Transition**

While the expense of a dog can overwhelm the owner, the **destructive nature of dogs makes them very difficult to live with.** Dogs seem to destroy everything they can. For example, my parents’ black lab has ruined my parents’ yard. Their dog digs holes in the lawn, pees on my mother’s prize red rose bush, and continually eats through their white picket fence. My neighbor’s toy poodle ate her $350 shoes. I have also witnessed dogs tear apart pillows, scratch furniture, and ruin carpet. The **destructive** power of dogs makes them a terrible annoyance.

1 Paragraph = 1 Idea