Paragraph structure

Point

Illustration (evidence, facts, examples, data, statistics, names, numbers, physical details... all that stuff that helps to prove your point.)

Explanation:

- How/why the illustration (evidence) supports the point of the paragraph. (tell the reader what the evidence means)
- How/why the point of this paragraph supports the thesis of the entire paper (or why the point of this paragraph supports the main point of this section of the paper).

Example

Claim: The earth’s temperature has risen due to increased CO2 levels.

Illustration: Tiny air bubbles trapped in ice/snow from previous years reveal increased CO2 levels (physical evidence)

Illustration: “At no point in the last 650,000 years before the preindustrial era did the CO2 concentration go above 300 ppm” (Gore). Now they have. (expert opinion)

Illustration: [temperature measurements and estimates] (more physical data)

Finished paragraph

Claim (Topic sentence): The earth’s temperature has risen due to increased CO2 levels. Illustration #1: We know that CO2 levels have increased from tiny air bubbles trapped in ice and snow from previous years, which reveal that CO2 has gone up dramatically since the dawn of the industrial revolution. (Source) Illustration #2: Al Gore points out that “At no point in the last 650,000 years before the preindustrial era did the CO2 concentration go above 300 parts per million,” but now they have. Illustration #3: According to measurements from recent decades and estimates of temperatures earlier, the temperature has risen along with CO2. (Source) Explanation: This shows that there is a strong correlation between CO2 levels and temperature, which indicates that climate change is probably caused by human activity [link to overall claim for this section].