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may change the way we live, and we make judgments about our leaders' actions that will influence the way we vote in the next election. **Last but not least**, the state and local news keeps us in touch with our regional politicians and with issues like economic development that affect our area. All this information goes into our personal data bank and informs our voice in the great chorus of American democracy.

Effective body paragraphs also provide **transitions between** paragraphs of support.

### Peer Example

Beth

“ I used transitions at the beginning of each of my body paragraphs to help lead the reader through my essay. In the second paragraph, I announced my first supporting sentence with the word *first*. In my third paragraph, I referred back to the first point I had made and then introduced my second point, and in my fourth paragraph I announced my final support. ”

**Thesis:** As I gathered up my son and his gear to take him to scouts, I realized how perfectly this new minivan meets my needs as a parent.

**Topic sentence #1:** **First**, the exterior of the van offers me style, safety, and convenience.

**Topic sentence #2:** **Not only does the exterior** of the new minivan perfectly suit my needs as a parent, but the interior is designed for the driver's safety and comfort.

**Topic sentence #3:** **Finally**, the van's performance features make it a pleasure to drive.

### Number of Body Paragraphs

The number of body paragraphs in an essay will depend on the number of points needed to develop the thesis. The length of your essay may be determined by your assignment, or it may be left up to you. Even though we show you lots of five-paragraph essay models, the number of paragraphs in your essays may vary depending on what you have to say and how many points you wish to present.

### Order of Body Paragraphs

The body paragraphs should be presented in a logical order. You can choose to organize your body paragraphs in a number of ways; the important consideration is to make the order clear and logical to the reader. If the areas the essay will develop are spelled out in a blueprinted thesis, the body paragraphs should be developed in the same order that they are listed in the thesis.