

## TOK ESSAY PARAGRAPH GUIDE

<b>Introduction</b>	Define key terms – outline implications of key terms – state your main arguments in the order you will tackle them – state your main counterclaims in the order you will tackle them – state your overall conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid dictionary definitions: what do the words mean to you, in this context?</li> <li>• What do these words imply in relation to the question? What other ideas / concepts do they suggest?</li> <li>• What are your main arguments, and in what order will you make them?</li> <li>• What is your overall position on the question?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The title suggests...”</li> <li>• “In the context of this question, the</li> <li>• word X can mean...”</li> <li>• “This implies that...”</li> <li>• “I take the view that...”</li> </ul>
<b>Body 1</b>	Topic sentence – reasoning 1 or example 1 – analysis – reasoning 2 or example 2 – analysis – counterclaims - conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Does the topic sentence directly address the question? If not, rephrase it!</li> <li>• Does your topic sentence reflect / repeat the first argument given in the introduction?</li> <li>• Is your reasoning valid? Do the conclusions fit the premises? Are any premises missing?</li> <li>• Have you used your counterclaims to help you assess the validity / logic of your claims?</li> <li>• Does your conclusion use the language of the title to emphasize relevance?</li> <li>• Have you checked your language for generalizations and blanket statements?</li> <li>• Have you avoided making absolute statements? (nothing is absolute!)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Thus”, “therefore”, “hence”</li> <li>• “For example...”</li> <li>• “This implies that...”</li> <li>• “There is a strong probability that...”</li> <li>• “Therefore it is logical that...”</li> </ul>
<b>Body 2-8</b>	Same, or: develop counterclaims in separate paragraphs (depends on length and breadth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your topic sentence reflect / repeat the second argument given in the introduction?</li> <li>• Have you used linking words (moreover, furthermore, in addition, in contrast, however) to connect paragraphs?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “However, in opposition to this view,...”</li> </ul>
<b>Conclusion</b>	Repeat main arguments – give your conclusion to the question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you used the most interesting / persuasive arguments?</li> <li>• Have you used the language of the question to emphasize relevance?</li> <li>• x Don’t be afraid of repetition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “To conclude”, “In conclusion”</li> <li>• “As I have argued / shown...”</li> </ul>