How to write good paragraphs

When writing assignments, you need to structure them with paragraphs. Each paragraph should be on a single topic, making a single point. A paragraph is usually around a third of a page. We find Godwin’s (2014) WEED model from Planning your essay very helpful for constructing paragraphs.

W is for What.
You should begin your paragraph with the topic or point that you’re making, so that it’s clear to your lecturer. Everything in the paragraph should fit in with this opening sentence.

E is for Evidence
The middle of your paragraph should be full of evidence – this is where all your references should be incorporated. Make sure that your evidence fits in with your topic.

E is for Examples
Sometimes it’s useful to expand on your evidence. If you’re talking about a case study, the example might be how your point relates to the particular scenario being discussed.

D is for Do
You should conclude your paragraph with the implications of your discussion. This gives you the opportunity to add your commentary, which is very important in assignments which require you to use critical analysis.

So, in effect, each paragraph is like a mini-essay, with an introduction, main body and conclusion.

Some phrases for ‘Do’
Here are some phrases you could use to start the ‘Do’ part of your paragraphs. These show that you are concluding your paragraph, but basing that conclusion on the evidence you’ve presented.

- These findings suggest several courses of action ....
- An implication of these findings is that ...
- The evidence from this research suggests ...
- In general, therefore, it seems that ....
- This information could be used to develop....

More possible phrases are available in the ‘Writing Conclusions’ section of Academic Phrasebank (2019) (http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/writing-conclusions)