Paragraph Coherence: Paragraph Breaks

1. Visit http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/01/ and read about paragraphs and paragraphing. Pay special attention to the section at the bottom of the page entitled “How do I know when to start a new paragraph?”

2. If you are confused, now is a good time to STOP and visit an instructor or a tutor to get some help. Write your questions down below before you go.

Once you are ready to continue, go on to #3.

3. Read the following paragraph from the sample CAHSEE tests online

Some days, I go to school, and on the way to school, I think that there is nowhere else in the world I would rather be. No matter what time of year it is, I walk through the neighborhoods, and every morning, I see the same people I always see: the tiny old lady walking what may be the tiniest dog in the world, the man at the newsstand with the walrus mustache, the skipping twins on their way to the bus stop. I don’t know any of their names or where they live, or what their favorite foods are, or what they think about anything, but these are people I’ve known forever. In a strange way, I think of them as my friends. Every day, I smile at them, and they smile at me. The man at the newsstand says “Buenos dias” in his deep voice and will sometimes comment on the weather in Spanish because years and years ago I told him that my parents spoke Spanish too, and he told me I needed to learn. When it rains, the old lady with the dog always scolds me and tells me I should carry an umbrella. And school—it’s the same. What I like best is the routine: homeroom, English, biology, physical education, lunch, math, and social studies, then soccer practice after school. I see the same people at school every day, sit next to the same people in my classes, eat lunch with my same friends. I have friends I have known as long as I can remember. It’s as comfortable as being at home. My parents moved into our house before I was born. I know everything there is to know about our street. The oak tree in the yard has a tree house that my father built when I was six. The sidewalk is cracked in front of our neighbors’ house from the big earthquake; we use the uneven pavement as a skate ramp. If you run past the tall fence in front of the big white house on the corner, you can see through the fence as if it didn’t exist.

4. Using the proofreader’s mark for paragraphing (¶), mark where this long paragraph should be broken up into three separate paragraphs.
5. Before reviewing your answers with an instructor or tutor, use the space below to write any questions you still have about paragraphing:


6. Review your answers with an instructor or tutor in the WRC. Have that person sign and date this sheet.


Instructor/Tutor signature

Date

7. Return this completed, signed sheet to your instructor.