

FIGURE 9.4 Flowchart for Evaluating Your Paragraphs

QUESTIONS

REVISION STRATEGIES

1. Does each paragraph have a clear topic sentence that supports the thesis? Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph. Then evaluate whether the topic sentence makes a statement that supports the main idea of the essay.

NO

- Revise a sentence within the paragraph so that it clearly states the main point.
- Write a new sentence that supports the thesis and states the main point of the paragraph.

YES

2. Do all sentences in each paragraph support the topic sentence? To find out, read the topic sentence and each supporting sentence in turn.

NO

- Revise supporting sentences to make their connection to the topic sentence clear.
- Delete any sentences that do not support the topic sentence.

YES

3. Does the paragraph offer adequate explanation and supporting details? Place ✓s beside supporting details. Then ask yourself: Will readers want or need to know anything else?

NO

- Add more details if your paragraph seems skimpy.
- Use either the *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* questions or the prewriting strategies in Chapter 5 to generate the details you need.

YES

4. Will it be clear to your reader how each sentence and each paragraph connects to those before and after it? (To find out, read your paper aloud to see if it flows smoothly or sounds choppy.)

NO

- Add transitions where they are needed. Refer to the list of common transitions on page 169.