List, Example and Generalization Paragraphs

I. List paragraph
When you want to inform your readers a number of things or to convince your reader with several evidences, you use listing.

Read the following paragraph. Write down briefly the topic sentence, supports and concluding sentence if there’s any.

I enjoy reading English newspapers for three reasons. Firstly, I can enlarge my English vocabulary. I still remember when I first read New York Times, I had to consult the dictionary for every single line. In two years, I picked up a lot of new words in reading. Secondly, English newspapers inform me of the world situation. China Daily, for instance, not only tells me what happens in our country, but also the important events in the world. In as short as an hour’s time, I feel as if I had traveled around the world. Thirdly, reading English newspapers broadens my knowledge. A good English newspaper usually has several special columns such as sports, finance, people and customs, culture and so on. I am interested in reading almost all of them because they often provide detailed information or enlightening discussions. When my friends ask me with admiration how I learn to know so much, I would say to them, “English newspaper will tell you everything.”

Discussion questions:
1. Topic sentence? Controlling idea?
2. Supports? Transitions? Suggest substitutions for transitions (As an English major, the most practical point for me is that…, besides…, what’s more/ also…)
3. Many paragraphs have a sentence to round off. The sentence can be a short summary or a restatement of the main point. We call it a concluding sentence. This paragraph doesn’t have one, but the ending is implied by the word “everything” which also emphasizes the topic sentence.
4. Use symbols to show the structure: TS, S1, S2, S3. (C)

Words and expressions for list paragraph:
1. Sample topic sentences:
   Plants can be categorized into four groups.
   English cooking terms sometimes have special meanings.
   The government has taken three measures against terrorism.
2. Tips (on transitions)
   “At first, at last” indicate time sequence. Do not use them to present items or viewpoints.
   Avoid sentence fragments: “First, love for his job.” (First, a good teacher must love his job.)

II. Example paragraph
E development is similar to L development: both use S to illustrate the main idea. Difference: in L, each item makes up an indispensable subpoint, while an E may include 3 or 4 egs, but sometimes only 1, depending on how forceful the egs are. Examples must be relevant, concrete, and convincing.

Read and find out 1) TS 2) How many E 3) C

The optimist can always overcome crisis in life. A case in point is the story of Bob Dell. Bob had been with a meat-packing plant for more than 26 years when suddenly the plant closed
down. At 45, Bob had a wife, two kids, a mortgage – and only a high school diploma. However, Bob didn’t give up. He decided to find something new. A friend told him that a company was hiring salesmen. Bob might have dismissed the idea: he’d never sold a thing in his life. But, typical of an optimist, he was open to all possibilities. In less than a year, Bob went from sausage-stuffer to super-salesman, earning twice what he’d made at the packing plant. His experience shows that the optimist is able to turn whatever situation he is in to his advantage.

III. Generalization paragraph
A paragraph developed by listing evidences or describing details followed by summarizing statement. Possible structure: TO, S1, S2, S3, TS (C).