

UNIT 1

DEFINITION TEXT

A **definition paragraph** is a paragraph explaining a term or subject, so your audience comprehends the topic of the paragraph. This can be done in three different ways: Synonym, Class, and Negation.

a. Synonym is explaining the term by using the words that mean the same thing.

Example: To procrastinate is to slack.

b. Class is when you put your topic in a larger category to explain your term.

Example: A pineapple is a tropical fruit that has an acidic and sweet taste.

c. Negation means that the writer first says something is not, and then says what it is.

Example: A snowcone is not an ice creamcone, but rather a shredded ice and syrup treat.

Examples of questions requiring a definition paragraph

1. What is venture capital?
2. Define 'over-fishing'.
3. What are longitudinal dunes?
4. What is meant by protein quality?
5. What is cholera?

Sample paragraph 1

An amtrack is not a boat; however, it is a military vehicle that moves on the ocean as well as on land. It's an armored vehicle that weighs twenty-six tons. An amtrack's job is to carry troops from ships off shore onto the beach in an amphibious assault. It's made out of aluminum, with steel suspension. It has a tracked suspension, much like a bulldozer. Its front

end slopes upward toward the headlights in an effort to give it greater ground clearance. It's propelled on land by its tracked suspension; however, in the water it uses two water jets. It has a turret that holds a fifty caliber machine gun, and a forty millimeter, fully automatic, grenade launcher. It has a ramp on the back that can be raised or lowered for the easy loading and unloading of troops. There is a door built into this ramp so that when the ramp is up, people can still get in and out through the back. It has three hatches behind the turret that can be opened to allow the dropping of supplies into the vehicle, or to allow embarked infantry a means of looking out. The driver looks out of a hatch on the front left side of the vehicle, while the troop commander sits just behind him. The vehicle commander, sits in the turret of the vehicle, and mans the machine guns. The amtrack is fully amphibious.

Sample paragraph 2

A racist can be defined as a prejudiced person who discriminates because of another individual's outer appearance or race. Racism can all start as a child being raised with negative thoughts, or can be brought upon by personal reasons. For example, growing up in a racist family will give adolescent awful thoughts about a race without even experiencing how they really feel first hand. A different example of how one might unfortunately choose to be racist would be if a person visits a country, and a negative event took place; this person might become racist toward a group of people that lived there all because of one personal event that happened. This is not a type of person that treats people like how they want to be treated, but it is a form of hatred toward a set of people. This kind of person might use mental abuse, or they can even get physically abusive toward the kind of race they are discriminate towards. They also can have a type of attitude that thinks that they are better than certain groups and cultures. Racism is a negative concept that put down people for no real reason. Racism is a form of ignorance and inequity and only one could wish for this discrimination to stop altogether in order for everybody to get along.