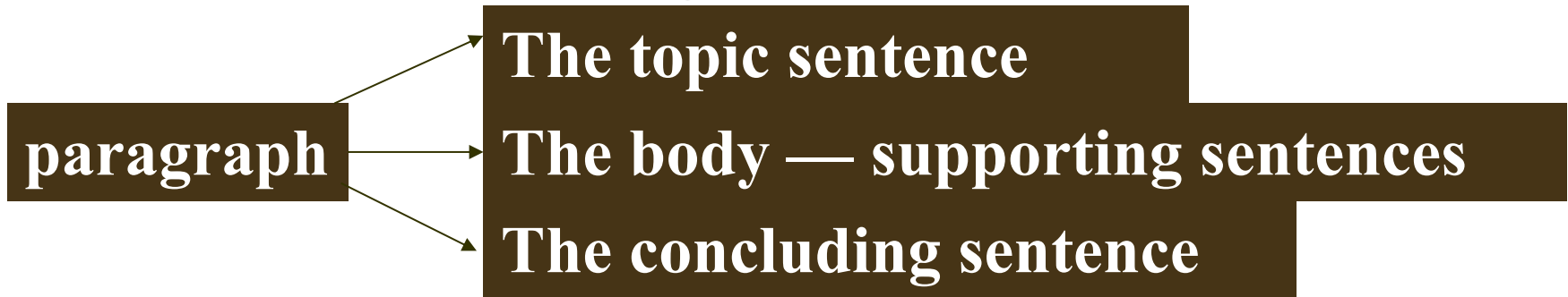


# **Unit 5**

## **PART THREE WRITING**

- **Section A: Writing Strategy (4) :  
How to Write Supporting  
Sentences (P70-73)**

- **Three Parts:**
- A **paragraph** is a series of sentences that are organized and related to a single topic. There are three parts to a paragraph. **The topic sentence** is usually found at the beginning of the paragraph. **The topic sentence** captures **the main idea** of the paragraph. The second part of a paragraph is **the body** of the paragraph, the **supporting sentences**. The sentences in the body of the paragraph provide **details to support the topic**. The last sentence in the paragraph is **the concluding sentence** which **summarizes** the paragraph.



- 1. What is a Supporting Sentence?

Supporting sentences are the sentences that **“support”** or **explain** the arguments or themes displayed in the topic sentence. **Coming after the topic sentence**, they make up the body of a paragraph and give details to develop and support the main idea of the paragraph. They back up, illustrate, prove, or clarify the topic sentence by using examples, quotations, statistics, or giving further explanation and reasons.

支持，说明，证明，澄清

## **Paragraph Development: *Writing topic, supporting and concluding sentences***

### **◆ *Warming-up Exercise:***

**In the example below there is a topic sentence.**

**Write *three supporting sentences* in the blank spaces under each one and *one concluding sentence*.**

- **Topic Sentence:**
- **1. Tom is a fair-weather friend.**

- **Supporting sentences:**

- **2.** \_\_\_\_\_.

- **3.** \_\_\_\_\_.

- **4.** \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Concluding sentence:**

- **5.** \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Topic Sentence:**

- 1. Tom is a fair-weather friend.

- **Supporting sentences:**

- 2. He is our colleague.

- 3. He definitely is friendly when he needs our help but when we need his help, we can't reach him.

- 4. Our colleagues call him a fair-weather friend who is loyal in good times but not when things get difficult.

- **Concluding sentence:**

- 5. So if you are in trouble or facing tough times, Tom probably won't stick by you.

- **2. Layers of Supporting Sentences**
- **not parallel**
- (并非平行的)
- **multi-layered**
- (多层次的)
- **primary supporting sentences (major supporting sentences)**
- 主要支撑(拓展)句
- **secondary supporting sentences (minor supporting sentences)**
- 次要支撑(拓展)句
- **Minor supporting sentences are subordinate to major supporting sentences, supplementing major supporting sentences with more information or examples.**

## **4. Ways to Paragraph Development — Writing Supporting Sentences**

- **1. By Time (In Chronological Order; Time Sequence)**
- **2. By Space (In Space Order)**
- **3. By Process (In Procedural Order)**
- **4. by an example (examples — exemplification)**
- **5. by listing ( a list of reasons, facts, ideas )**
- **6. by cause and effect**
- **7. by comparison and contrast**
- **8. by classification**
- **9. by definitions**
- **10. by a combination of Methods**



- Section B: Writing Practice

**1) Directions:** *Read the following paragraph and find out which are the topic sentences, the major supporting sentences and the minor supporting sentences.*

**I don't teach because teaching is not easy for me. Teaching is the most difficult of the various ways I have attempted to earn my living: mechanic, carpenter, writer. For me, teaching is a red-eye, sweaty-palm, sinking-stomach profession. Red-eye, because I never feel ready to teach no matter how late I stay up preparing. Sweaty-palm, because I'm always nervous before I enter the classroom, sure that I will be found out for the fool that I am. Sinking-stomach, because I leave the classroom an hour later convinced that I was even more boring than usual.**

- Answer: **(topic sentence)** I don' t teach because teaching is not easy for me. Teaching is the most difficult of the various ways I have attempted to earn my living: mechanic, carpenter, writer. **(major supporting sentence)** For me, teaching is a red-eye, sweaty-palm, sinking-stomach profession. **(minor supporting sentence)** Red-eye, because I never feel ready to teach no matter how late I stay up preparing. **(minor supporting sentence)**Sweaty-palm, because I'm always nervous before I enter the classroom, sure that I will be found out for the fool that I am. **(minor supporting sentence)** Sinking-stomach, because I leave the classroom an hour later convinced that I was even more boring than usual.

- **3) Directions:** *Read the following one-sentence paragraph about the advantages of TV advertisements. Give this paragraph a topic sentence and rewrite it as three brief points: first-hand information about new products, information on different points available, and information that helps consumers to choose.*



- **People who wish to get first-hand information about new products think that TV advertisements are good because they inform TV viewers of many different sorts of up-to-date products and enable consumers to choose the products they think best or like best.**
- **Possible answer:** Advertisements also offer benefits. Some people like advertisements because they provide first-hand information about new products. TV advertisements also inform viewers about the different products available. Up-to-date information enables consumers to choose the products they like best. In addition, most TV ads are full of creativity and are worth watching.

- **3) Directions:** *Supporting sentences discuss the topic sentence by explaining the main ideas and discussing those more fully using reasons, examples, facts, results, statistics, or anything else that proves your ideas are true. Write a paragraph beginning with the following topic sentence:  
“Studying abroad has two main benefits. ”*

- **Possible answer:** Studying abroad has two main benefits. Firstly, people who study abroad can get a better job when they return to their home country. This is because their qualifications and experience mean that they tend to get jobs that are higher paid, and they can also gain promotion quickly. Another advantage of studying abroad is the independence students can gain. For example, students have to cope with the challenges of living alone and meeting new people from different cultures. As a consequence, they will become more confident in their life and in their relationships with others. All in all, it is clear that studying abroad is a beneficial experience.