



# Paragraph Writing

What is a paragraph?

A) at least three sentences

B) the middle part of a text

C) a group of sentences that share the same idea

# Key elements of Paragraph Writing:

- Topic Sentence
- Supporting ideas (usually 1 - 3)
- RENNS (reasons, examples, names, numbers, senses)
- Optional concluding sentence
- Unity and Coherence

A well-written paragraph should \_\_\_\_\_

- A. focus on a single, coherent idea.
- B. consist of logically connected sentences.
- C. Both a and b

# Process of Writing a Paragraph

- Compose your topic sentence. Think of a topic and a controlling idea that will narrow the topic enough to support it well in one paragraph.
- Brainstorm supporting ideas. Choose 2 - 6 supporting ideas that do a good job supporting your topic sentence.
- Write your paragraph in topic outline form as follows. Don't actually write sentences in the outline, except for the topic sentence.

How long should a paragraph be?

A. Every paragraph should be at least five sentences long.

B. Good paragraphs must be at least one page long.

C .It's okay for paragraphs to vary in length.

# Topic Sentence:

Supporting Idea 1

- 1
- 2

Supporting Idea 2

- 1

Supporting Idea 3

- 1
- 2
- Concluding Sentence

- Put your supporting ideas in a logical order.
- For each supporting idea, think of RENNS that further explain the idea. For balance, each supporting idea should have about the same number of RENNS.

**Q1. Read the paragraph and fill in the missing words.**

**Word list: opinion, shin, rust, accomplish, respond, introduce, demonstrate silent, stroll, assist**

Some of my friends and I decided to volunteer at a nursing home once a month. We walked into the home to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to the staff, who would then \_\_\_\_\_ what activities we would be helping with. We would be able to \_\_\_\_\_ the residents as they took a nice \_\_\_\_\_ around the outside of the building. They might want to talk, or stay \_\_\_\_\_. We could listen to their stories and \_\_\_\_\_, even if we don't agree with their \_\_\_\_\_. We could help clean \_\_\_\_\_ off of the water spouts. There was so much to do! I knew we could \_\_\_\_\_ a lot while we were there. I decided to start outside, since the weather was beautiful. I was skipping along the building, when I accidentally hit my \_\_\_\_\_ on one of the water spouts I was going to clean off. Luckily, it didn't hurt or dampen my helping spirit!



# Choosing a college or university can be difficult for high school graduates.

- A. Good preparation for your major
  - Thorough, solid curriculum
  - Qualified professors
- Affordability
  - Ability to pay tuition and living expenses
  - Possibility of scholarships
- Good Location
  - Study environment
  - Possibilities of part time job in major

**Concluding Sentence:** Students should consider these points carefully so they can choose the most appropriate college or university for them

The smooth, logical flow of sentences within a paragraph is called \_\_\_\_\_

- A. paragraph deduction.
- B. paragraph coherence.
- C. paragraph personality.

# How do I organize a paragraph?

- **Narration:** Tell a story. Go chronologically, from start to finish.
- One North Carolina man found quite a surprise last year while fishing in the Catawba River: a piranha. Jerry Melton, of Gastonia, reeled in a one pound, four ounce fish with an unusual bite. Melton could not identify it, but a nearby fisherman did. Melton at first could not believe he had caught a piranha. He said, “That ain’t no piranha. They ain’t got piranha around here.” Melton was right: the fish is native to South America, and North Carolina prohibits owning the fish as a pet or introducing the species to local waterways. The sharp-toothed, carnivorous fish likely found itself in the Catawba River when its illegal owner released the fish after growing tired of it. Wildlife officials hope that the piranha was the only of its kind in the river, but locals are thinking twice before they wade in the water.

What is the first sentence of a paragraph called?

A. The introduction sentence

B. The exclusive sentence

C. The topic sentence

D .The first sentence

- **Description:** Provide specific details about what something looks, smells, tastes, sounds, or feels like. Organize spatially, in order of appearance, or by topic.
- Piranha are omnivorous, freshwater fish, which are mostly known for their single row of sharp, triangular teeth in both jaws. Piranhas' teeth come together in a scissor-like bite and are used for puncture and tearing. Baby piranha are small, about the size of a thumbnail, but full-grown piranha grow up to about 6-10 inches, and some individual fish up to 2 feet long have been found. The many species of piranha vary in color, though most are either silvery with an orange underbelly and throat or almost entirely black

When do you use supporting details or supporting sentences?

- A .Before the first sentence at the introduction
- B .After the last sentence because it helps you summarize the paragraph
- C. Never use these in paragraphs because they are for essays only.
- D. After the topic sentence and before the closing sentence

- **Process:** Explain how something works, step by step. Perhaps follow a sequence—first, second, third.
- You can safely swim with piranhas, but it's important to know how and when to do it. First, choose an appropriate time, preferably at night and during the rainy season. Avoid piranha-infested waters during the dry season, when food supplies are low and piranhas are more desperate. Piranhas feed during the day, so night-time swimming is much safer. Second, streamline your movement. Wild or erratic activity attracts the attention of piranhas. Swim slowly and smoothly. Finally, never enter the water with an open wound or raw meat. Piranhas attack larger animals only when they are wounded. The presence of blood in the water may tempt the fish to attack. If you follow these simple precautions, you will have little to fear.

- **Classification:** Separate into groups or explain the various parts of a topic
- Piranhas comprise more than 30-60 species of fish, depending on whom you ask. The many species fall into four genera: Pygocentrus, Pygopristis, Serrasalmus, and Pristobrycon. Piranha in the Pygocentrus genus are the most common variety, the kind you might find in a pet store. Pygopristis piranha are herbivores, feasting on seeds and fruits, not flesh. In contrast, fish in the Serrasalmus genus eat only meat, and their teeth are razor-sharp. Pristobrycon are the least friendly of all piranhas; they often bite the fins of other fish, even fish of the same species. The label piranha, then, refers to a wide variety of species.



# process to paragraph development

- Step 1. Decide on a controlling idea and create a topic sentence - **Slave spirituals often had hidden double meanings.**
- Step 2. Explain the controlling idea - **On one level, spirituals referenced heaven, Jesus, and the soul; but on another level, the songs spoke about slave resistance.**
- Step 3. Give an example (or multiple examples): **Here are two examples that we could use to illustrate the double meanings in slave spirituals**
- Step 4. Explain the example(s)

**Read the following paragraph. Look for the important parts of a paragraph (main idea, topic sentence, details).**

Music by Jessenia Corpus

I like playing the violin. I want to play the piano. I also want to play the drums. It takes a lot of time and practice to learn to play a new instrument.

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph?

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2. Write the topic sentence? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Add two more details \_\_\_\_\_,

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How can you strengthen connections between paragraphs in a paper?

- A. Use transitional words or phrases at the beginning of the paragraph.
- B. Make sure the first sentence in the next paragraph is extremely long and flowing.
- C. Use the phrase "Here's the connection" to let the reader know the concepts are related.