

# Paragraph Structure

A paragraph is a collection of cohesive sentences about a topic. Over the first few weeks of the semester, we will review and practice each of the components that makes up a paragraph. This page goes over each part and shows you how they fit together.

## Indent

Paragraphs begin with a small space to help readability. This space is equivalent to 5 space bar presses or 1 tab key press.

# TS

Topic Sentence

The topic sentence clearly specifies what the paragraph will be about. It is usually 1 or 2 sentences.

**How to Write:** Topic + Main Idea

# SS

Support Sentences

The support sentences provide further details about the topic. There should be at least 3, but more is probably better!

**How to Write:** Use reason, description, and/or examples

# CS

Conclusion Sentence

The conclusion sentence wraps up your paragraph and helps people remember what you wrote. It is usually 1-2 sentences.

**How to Write:** Restate the point, make a prediction, state an opinion, or ask an insightful question

### Example 1

The activity that makes me happiest is listening to music. When I listen to music, I can relax after studying and doing my part-time job. Working stresses me out. However, songs with touching lyrics can motivate me and remind me of positive things. Also, there are many different kinds of music. Daily life can get so boring. I have a routine. However, I can listen to electronic music, K-pop, classical music, and rock depending on my mood. What music makes you happiest?

### Example 2

The most useful invention that someone could make is the time machine. We could fix mistakes we made easily. If we had a time machine, we could go back in time and use knowledge and experience gained from a mistake. However, we could also be proactive and avoid mistakes. If we travel forward in time, we could talk to our descendants to see the consequences of our actions. We could then fix any problems. I think we need to increase funding on time research.