

Lesson 15: Learn More about Writing Paragraphs

Purpose of Lesson 15: You will learn more about writing paragraphs.

Skills: Reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing.

Words to Learn:

revise - making improvements to your draft: *Revising makes your writing better.*

writer's checklist - items to check off to see if your writing is complete: *I compared paragraph three with the checklist, and made two changes that improved my writing.*

Next week...



Ms. Shine and the class have discussed:

1. Finding and writing a topic sentence
2. The job of the introduction paragraph and the topic sentence for the introduction
3. How details in the lists become supporting sentences

Now it is time to actually write the paragraphs and put all this information together. It is time to write your first paragraph.

Dora has asked for another conference to get help with her writing...

Lesson 15: Learn More about Writing Paragraphs

1



Okay, Dora. We are done practicing. Now we are going to write paragraphs using the lists you made about Lucy. It is time to start writing paragraphs.

2

I am looking forward to this. I have three lists, so I should have three paragraphs about Lucy.



3



Let's start paragraph one, and then you will see how it all comes together.

4

Here is the list. Let's see: How can I make it into a paragraph?



5



Okay, my first list: **main idea: finding Lucy**
Cold sad
Hungry dirty
Scared cute
Wound friendly
Older female February

6

When you look at your list you can see finding Lucy is the main idea.

- First, turn the "main idea" into a topic sentence for the introduction.
- Then, write sentences using the other details to make a paragraph. You will see how those details support your main idea.
- Use the Super Writing Tips in Lesson 13 to guide you.



Lesson 15: Learn More about Writing Paragraphs

Super Tips for Writing

- Write **sentences** that communicate what you want to say. That is your most important **task** for now.
- Write in an organized way so that it makes sense. Example: time order
- At this time, do not be concerned with proper spelling, grammar or vocabulary.
- Each paragraph has a **topic sentence**.
- Each paragraph must have **supporting details**.
- When appropriate, include your own observations, experiences and knowledge in your writing.



Dear Learner,

Pretend that you are Dora. Use her lists to make sentences for paragraphs. Write on the lines provided below. I will start the first topic sentence for you.

As you write, remember:

- The first paragraph is the introduction. The topic sentence for this paragraph introduces the reader to the *whole piece of writing*.
- The topic sentence for the paragraphs tells the reader about the *main idea of that paragraph*.
- This is your first piece of writing, so there will be mistakes. You will correct these later.
- I will give you a writer's **checklist**. Read it before you write.



STOP and READ! You are now going to write your first paragraphs. As you look them over, do not make major corrections. It is not the time for that yet. Major corrections will be made later. Before you start to write, please read the checklist below! You can use this checklist to refresh your memory about some of the do's and don'ts of writing. Reviewing this checklist can help you avoid some common errors. If you need more help, be sure to ask your teacher. That is what Ms. Shine always tells her class.

Lesson 15: Learn More about Writing Paragraphs

Writer's Checklist

You must remember to:

- ✓ Capitalize the first word of the sentence.
- ✓ Capitalize all proper nouns.
- ✓ Indent the first sentence of the paragraph.
- ✓ Use a period, a question mark or an exclamation point at the end of each sentence.
- ✓ Use a topic sentence for each paragraph.
- ✓ Use facts and examples to support the topic sentence.
- ✓ Have proper noun-verb agreement.
- ✓ Have details arranged in a logical manner.

Lesson 15: Learn More about Writing Paragraphs

Continued after Quiz 1

8



Nice job. Was it difficult to write a few sentences after looking at your list?

9



Not really. Writing about Lucy was easy. On to the next list!

10



It is always a good idea to include your life's experiences and personal knowledge in your writing whenever possible. Later you will learn about a narrative essay, where you do write about something you know.

Continued after Quiz 2

11



Am I done with my paragraphs?

12



Not yet. You need to end with a conclusion: several sentences that close the door on your piece of writing. Think about every good story you read or movie/television show you watch. They all have an ending. That is what a conclusion is, an ending.

Lesson 15: Learn More about Writing Paragraphs

13



I know, I will just write, "THE END!"

14

Very clever, and a nice try, but your conclusion has to more than that. I'll show you.



15



Let me try. How about this for my *conclusion*? I am happy that I found Lucy and that I kept her. It makes me feel good that she is safe and happy. She is a lot of fun and very friendly and very expensive. My friends say that their pets are expensive. Everyone likes her. When she wears her tail, I know she is saying "thank you". Now, Lucy is nice and clean.

16

That's cute. It is a pretty good ending but needs some revising.



17



I really wrote down what I felt. My friends and I always think that Lucy says "thank you", so I wanted to include that in my essay.

18

We are not ready to write an essay yet. We are still going to refer to this as a piece of writing.



Continued after Quiz 4

19



Now, it's time to move on to the next step, the writer's checklist.

Lesson 15: Learn More about Writing Paragraphs



The writer's checklist is useful. It helps avoid some common mistakes when writing. Let's look at it again before we look at the paragraphs you and Dora wrote.

Writer's Checklist

You must remember to:

- ✓ Capitalize the first word of the sentence.
- ✓ Capitalize all proper nouns.
- ✓ Indent the first sentence of the paragraph.
- ✓ Use a period, a question mark or an exclamation point at the end of each sentence.
- ✓ Use a topic sentence for each paragraph.
- ✓ Use facts and examples to support the topic sentence.
- ✓ Have proper noun-verb agreement.
- ✓ Have details arranged in a logical manner.



Let's see what Dora wrote. Ms. Shine wants you to compare Dora's paragraphs to your own.

Dora's Paragraphs are in the next lesson!