

Lesson 14: How to Write a Paragraph

Purpose of Lesson 14: You will learn how to write a paragraph.

Skills: Reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing.

Words to Learn:

Introduction - the first paragraph of a piece of writing which tells the reader what the whole piece of writing is about: *The introduction sets the stage for the whole piece of writing.*



You now have had some practice writing the topic sentence. It is time to learn how to write a paragraph. Good news, you covered some of this in Unit Two, Lessons 9, 10 and 11. You are well on your way.

1



You are probably asking yourself where you will get the information for your paragraphs. Everyone gets concerned about that. Everyone gets concerned about that. We mentioned it in Unit Two, but let's review again:

- (1) Each list becomes a paragraph
- (2) Use the supporting details in each list to create sentences for *that* paragraph.

2

How does this information become a paragraph? I still don't get it. Can you go over it again?



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The information/details you grouped and listed become sentences. Sentences become paragraphs. It can be as simple as that.

4



How do I know if these sentences that I am writing will make sense?

5



Remember that your lists were grouped by things that were similar. You already have organization there. Write your sentences logically. For example: put events in a time order sequence, cause and effect, or write descriptions. Your sentences will make sense when you do this.

6



I see. Grouping details and information creates similar lists. Later, these lists help build a logical paragraph.

7



That's right. You can also add or delete details and information. Your writing is a work in progress. That means you will always look for ways to improve, to make your writing clearer. Your goal is to communicate to the reader in the best way possible.

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A work in progress; I like that description. I have a better understanding about a paragraph. Now on to my next question: How do I use the topic sentence in the paragraph? Where do I put it? Are there easy rules for this?

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Let's look at it step by step:

- (1) Each paragraph is based on a main idea.
- (2) The topic sentence states the main idea of that paragraph.
- (3) It can go anywhere but, since it is so important, it is often the first sentence.

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So the main idea sentence, or topic sentence, is like a sign telling us what's ahead. That must make it easier for the reader to understand the paragraph.



11



The first paragraph is special because it is the introduction to the whole piece of writing. Therefore, the topic sentence of that paragraph is the main idea of the entire piece of writing.

12

So the topic sentence of the introduction talks about the whole piece of writing. The other topic sentences are about each individual paragraph.



13



Well said. You really seem to have a handle on all the mechanics of a paragraph.

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This information has been a great help. I am going to have to write all this down in my notes.



Later in class...

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I have something to show you. I made myself some "super review notes".



Lesson 14: How to Write a Paragraph

Dora's Super Review Notes for Writing Paragraphs

Review:

1. Brainstorm list = organized lists or cluster drawing
2. Review each list and then title/name each list
3. Title of list = **main idea** of that list
4. **Main idea** = topic sentence
5. Details of list = **supporting details**
6. **Supporting details** = supporting sentences

Step 1:

Main idea of list = topic sentence

Supporting details = supporting sentences

Step 2:

Topic sentence
+ Supporting sentences
Paragraph

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These review notes are terrific. I am going to ask you to explain them to the class. Taking goof notes and writing them in a way that you can understand is a great skill. Nicely done!



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Thanks, Ms. Shine. Well, I guess the next step is to write paragraphs.



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Yes, but before we do, Smarty wants to ask the class some review questions.

