

Introducing Paragraphs (1)

Lecture: 1

Part: 1

Introducing Paragraphs

Parts of the Paragraph

1. Parts of the paragraph:
 - a. Topic sentences
 - b. Supporting sentences
 - c. Concluding sentence
2. Titles
3. Paragraph form

Parts of the Paragraph

Most English writing is organized into paragraphs. A paragraph is a group of related sentences. These sentences should have something in common. They should all relate to the topic.

A typical paragraph has three basic parts; a *topic sentence*, *supporting sentences*, and a *concluding sentence*.

1. The topic sentence: A good paragraph begins with a sentence that introduces the topic and tells the main idea of the whole paragraph. It tells what the writer will say about the topic.
2. The sentences that follow in the paragraph further explain and support the main idea or the topic sentence. They add details and give support. These sentences are called supporting sentences.
3. Some paragraphs end with a concluding sentence. This sentence repeats the information in the topic sentence in a different way.

Topic Sentences

The topic sentence is the most important sentence of a paragraph. It states the main idea and introduces the reader to the topic. The topic sentence is more general than the other sentences in the paragraph. Remember that a topic sentence, like all English sentences, must have a subject and a verb.

(See examples on slides # 8 & 9).

Supporting Sentences




Supporting sentences add information about the topic. They can be examples or explanations. (See examples on slides # 8 & 9).

Concluding Sentences

The concluding or final sentence of a paragraph usually reminds the reader of the main idea of the paragraph. It repeats the main idea. (See examples on slides # 8 & 9).




My Class

The students in my class come from many different parts of the world. Some students are from European countries such as Germany and Italy, and others are from Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Most students are from Asian countries such as Korea, China, and Japan. My classmates are an interesting mix of people from many different countries, and we all get along very well.

 Topic sentence  Supporting sentences  Concluding sentence

Red

I love the color red. No other color means so many different emotions and experiences. Life would be very boring without the color red. Fires would not burn in the same way. The sunset would not be interesting, and blood would not be so surprisingly beautiful. Red is powerful when it appears in nature, and it is also powerful when it appears in our emotions. Red is love. Red is anger. Red is beauty. I like to live life in a strong way, so I think I will always like the color red.

 Topic sentence  Supporting sentences  Concluding sentence

Read the following paragraphs, then answer the questions.

There are many reasons why people move to other places. Some move to find better jobs. Others move to places with better weather. Still others want to move to a place with less crime. Finally, people often want to move to a place where prices are cheap. For these reasons, every year millions of people move to new places.

1. What is the topic sentence? _____
2. How many supporting sentences are there in the paragraph? ____
3. What is the concluding sentence? _____

I am lucky to have my new job. First and most importantly, the work is very interesting. I learn new things every day and I get to travel a lot. In addition, my boss is very nice. She is always willing to help me when I have a problem. I have also made many new friends at my job. Last, but not least, the salary is fantastic. For these reasons I love my new job.

1. What is the topic sentence? _____
2. How many supporting sentences are there in the paragraph? ____
3. What is the concluding sentence? _____

Titles

Many paragraphs have a title. A title of a paragraph tells the main idea in a few words. Here are some things to remember when you write titles :

1. Titles are not complete sentences.
2. Always capitalize the first and last words of a title.
3. Capitalize all other important words. Do not capitalize articles (a, an, the) or prepositions (to, from, at).
4. Do not use a period at the end of a title. Do not use quotation marks (“ ”) around the title. But you may use a question mark (?) or an exclamation point (!) .
5. Center a title.

Correct the titles:

1. my Favorite hobby
2. OUR NEW NEIGHBOUR

Introducing Paragraphs Paragraph form

1. Always write a *title* for your paragraph.
 2. *Indent* (leave a space before the first word of each paragraph).
 3. Leave *margins* (space on both sides of a paragraph).
 4. Begin each sentence with a *capital letter*.
 5. End each sentence with a *full stop, question mark, or exclamation mark*.
1. Do not start each new sentence on a new line.
 2. Always *double-space* your paragraph.

The diagram shows a paragraph enclosed in a red bracket. Annotations include: a red arrow pointing from the word 'title' to the word 'Red' at the top; a red arrow pointing from the word 'indent' to the start of the first sentence; double-headed red arrows on the left and right sides indicating margins; and the word 'margin' written vertically on both the left and right sides.

title → Red

indent → I love the color red. No other color means so

←→ many different things. Life would be very boring without ←→

m a r g i n the color red. Fires would not burn in the same way. The m a r g i n

←→ emotions. Red is love. Red is anger. Red is beauty. I like to ←→

live life in a strong way, so I think I will always like the color red.

Look at the following paragraph. What is wrong with it?

my name is Ellen Lang.
I am twenty – eight years old.
I am from Atlanta, Georgia.
my native language is English.
I am a chef.
I work at a restaurant called Noodles.
of course, I like to cook.
I also like to play the piano and go out with my friends.