



✚ Lesson 2: How to write a paragraph

Paragraphs are medium-sized units of writing, longer than sentences, but shorter than sections, chapters, or entire works. Because they connect the “small” ideas of individual sentences to a “bigger” idea, paragraph structure is essential to any writing for organization, flow, and comprehension.

☞ **Parts of a paragraph :**

Good paragraphs begin with a topic sentence that briefly explains what the paragraph is about. Next, come a few sentences for development and support, elaborating on the topic with more detail. Paragraphs end with a conclusion sentence that summarizes the topic or presents one final piece of support to wrap up.

A good paragraph has three parts (three elements), namely a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence. To write a paragraph, you need to include the three elements below.

- **The topic sentence:** is the first sentence in the paragraph. It opens the paragraph. The topic sentence states the main idea of the paragraph.
- **Supporting sentences:** are used to develop the topic sentence. In other words, they give more information about the topic sentence. Supporting sentences can give facts, statistics, details, or examples.
- **The concluding sentence:** is the last sentence in the paragraph. It usually restates the topic sentence in different words or summarizes the main points of the paragraph.
- ☞ **Common Prewriting Techniques/methods:**
- **What is Prewriting?**

The writing process consists of different stages: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Prewriting is the first stage in the writing process. Prewriting is the "generating ideas" part of the writing process when the student works to determine the topic and the position or point-of-view for a target audience. It is a term that describes any kind of preliminary work that precedes the actual paper writing.

➤ **Prewriting Methods :**

There are a number of ways that students can tackle the prewriting stage of the writing process. Following are a few of the most common methods and strategies that students can use.

1. **Brainstorming:** Brainstorming is the process of coming up with as many ideas as possible about a topic without being worried about the feasibility or whether an idea is realistic or not. A list format is often the easiest to organize. This can be done individually and then shared with the class or done as a group. Access to this list during the writing process can help students make connections they may want to use later in their writing.
2. **Freewriting:** Freewriting is very similar to brainstorming in that it gets all your thoughts out onto paper. However, where brainstorming often looks more like a list of ideas, freewriting usually takes the shape of more formal sentences. Even so, grammar, punctuation, and the like should be far from your mind.
3. **Clustering or Mindmapping:** Once again, clustering and mindmapping, like brainstorming and freewriting, allow you to take inventory of your ideas. It may be a very useful technique for extremely visual people. A lot of online diagrams of clustering have the central word in a circle, related words or phrases are then connected by lines to this original word in the center. They build on the idea so that, in the end, the student has a wealth of ideas that are connected to this central idea.
4. **Question-Asking:** This is one of the best and most useful approaches to get yourself started on writing a paper, especially if you really have no idea where to start. Here, you write down all the questions that seem relevant to your material. These should definitely be legitimate questions. By generating a lot of questions, as well as forcing yourself to contemplate answers to those questions,



you'll get out a lot of ideas, issues, thoughts, etc. that could potentially get you started on paper writing.

Asking and answering who, what, when, where, why and how questions about the subject.

5. **Outlining:** Students can employ traditional outlines to help them organize their thoughts in a logical manner. The student would start with the overall topic and then list out their ideas with supporting details. It is helpful to point out to students that the more detailed their outline is from the beginning, the easier it will be for them write their paper.



Thanks for attending the session
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