

Writing a Perfect Paragraph

What is the purpose of a paragraph?

The purpose of a paragraph is to present and develop ONE idea about a topic.

How does a paragraph work?

A paragraph joins sentences together forming one idea. There are several working parts to a paragraph: a topic sentence, supporting details and a connecting or concluding sentence. This is also known as RAEC (Restate, Answer, Evidence and Connect).

What is a *topic sentence*?

A topic sentence is usually the first sentence of a paragraph. Its purpose is to tell the reader what your paragraph is going to be about. If the sentence does not do this, the reader will not know what the author of the paragraph is talking about.

What are supporting details?

Supporting details prove the topic sentence. In order to make a valid topic sentence, you should have at least three supporting details.

What is a concluding sentence?

A concluding sentence will summarize what the author discussed in his paragraph.

Are there different kinds of paragraphs?

Yes, but for right now we are only going to concentrate on writing a single paragraph. Later on, we will learn how to join paragraphs together.

Example: What is your favorite baseball team?

My favorite baseball team is the New York Yankees. (See how I **restated** and answered the question in the **Topic Sentence**) One of the reasons why the Yankees are my favorite team is because I am from New York. (This is my first Supporting Detail) The Yankees are the best franchise in baseball history because they have won 26 World Championships. (This is my second **Supporting Detail**) Finally, the day I was born, Reggie Jackson hit three homeruns in one game to win the World Series for the Yankees. (This is my third **Supporting Detail**) There was no way that I couldn't like the New York Yankees! (This is my **Concluding Sentence**)