

PARAGRAPH

Learning Outcome

After reading this worksheet, you will be able to apply the paragraph structure to improve your writing.

Introduction

In this worksheet, you will find the definition of a paragraph, the importance of writing a good paragraph, strategies to write your ideas, paragraph structure, an example and a quiz.

What is a paragraph?

A paragraph is a set of sentences to form a text that communicates an idea. These sentences develop a single idea from the beginning to the end.

Why is it important to write a good paragraph?

It is important because it allows people to convey their ideas in a complete and organized manner. Its development allows people to convey what they have learnt to their readers *clearly* and *sufficiently*.

How do I organize my paragraph?

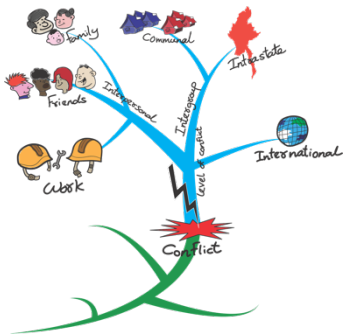
Before writing a paragraph, organize your ideas. Follow the following steps:

1st step:

- Brainstorming: this technique helps people write what they have in mind.



- Mind-maps: using this technique, people can organize and visualize their ideas.

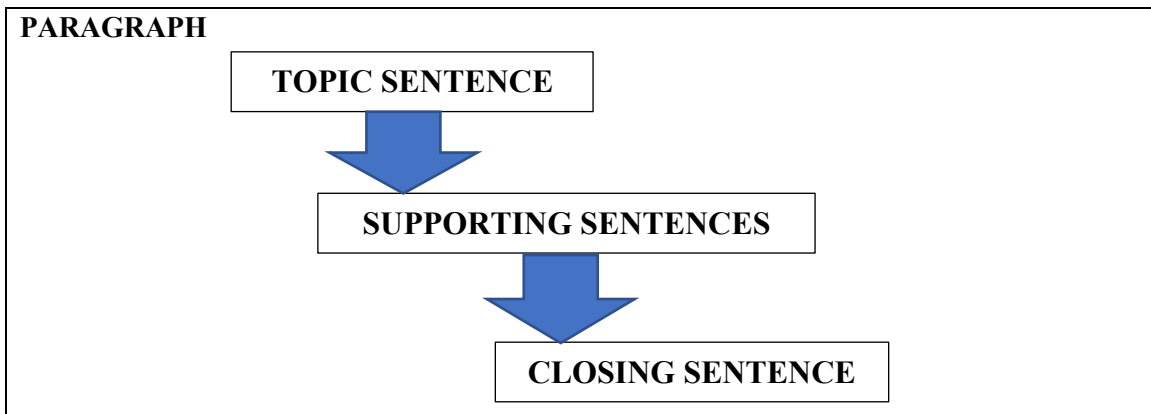


2nd step:

- Use this paragraph structure to **order** the ideas you used in the previous steps.

Paragraph structure

A good paragraph has the following structure:



Functions:

- a) The topic sentence tells the reader what the paragraph is about.
- b) The supporting sentences are the body of the paragraph. These sentences provide examples or explanations. In this section of the paragraph, insert academic sources to support what you are writing.
- c) The closing sentence closes your paragraph. It connects to the topic sentence through restatement, prediction or suggestion. It should be general without details.

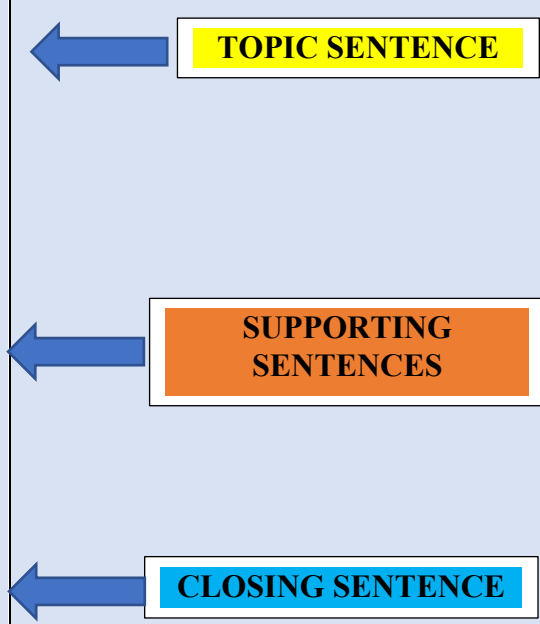
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Example

Test 2: A writing lesson for primary school students

This EFL writing lesson was supported by the following teaching and learning principles. The main objective of this lesson was to present the writing process to primary school students from Rancagua. To do this, the concept of particularity plays an important role in the design of the lesson. This concept is based on the need of teaching a particular group from a specific context (Kumaravadivelu, 2001). In the same line, sociocultural theory also plays an important role because the activities of the lesson provide students with collaboration, which is crucial when learning a second language (Lantolf & Thorne, 2006). Furthermore, this lesson has a hybrid approach which considers the process of writing and genre as main axis to write in the L1 and L2 (Matsuda, 2013). Another important approach to consider in this lesson is collaborative writing which is a fundamental strategy when learning a second language (Storch, 2019). To sum up, this lesson demonstrates that every pedagogical material must be informed by principles, and it may contribute to the initial teacher training process and in-service teachers.

Word count: 193



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Tips

Before sending your paragraph to your teacher, pay attention to the process of writing. This process has the following steps:

- a) Read your paragraph
- b) Check coherence, cohesion, punctuation, length of sentences and repetition of words
- c) Exchange your paragraph with a classmate to have a second opinion
- d) Submit your paragraph

*Coherence: logical relationship between the elements of a text

*Cohesion: connection among words, sentences and paragraphs through connectors, synonyms and pronouns

Quiz

Read the statements and decide if they are T (T) or False (F).

a)	A topic sentence presents the main idea of the paragraph	T	F
b)	Supporting sentences show examples in a paragraph	T	F
c)	The supporting sentences illustrate the ideas of the writer	T	F
d)	The supporting sentences develop the ideas of the writer and add academic sources to the paragraph	T	F
e)	A closing sentence is similar to the topic sentence	T	F

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