

# Writing A Paragraph

## What is a Paragraph?

A paragraph is a number of sentences that are organized and coherent, and are related to **ONE** single idea.

Every well-organised paragraph has three parts:

It starts with a controlling idea called **TOPIC SENTENCE** which expresses the controlling main idea of the paragraph.

The **BODY** of the paragraph is a number of sentences that discuss the controlling idea.

The **CONCLUSION**, the last sentence in a paragraph, refers to the topic sentence and sums up the main idea of the paragraph or might be a suggestion or advice for the reader.

## Types of Paragraphs

- **The Narrative Paragrap**  
tells a story
- **The Persuasive Paragraph**  
tries to convince the audience
- **The Descriptive Paragraph**  
describes something
- **The Expository Paragraph**  
explains something
- **The Opinion Paragraph**  
tells what you think and why

## The Opinion Paragraph

In our course we will practice writing an opinion paragraph. In a typical **Opinion Paragraph**,

- The **topic sentence** is your opinion.
- There are **THREE supporting reasons** why you have this opinion.
- The **conclusion** can be restatement of the topic sentence or advice to the reader.
- You should use **linking words** to organize your paragraph.

## **Opinion Paragraph: Layout Practice**

Now, let's do this activity. Take 5 minutes to **REARRANGE** these sentences. Put the following sentences (A-H) into the correct order (1-8) to have a well-organized opinion paragraph. You have three examples to help you.

- A. Finally, a study group makes me part of a team.
- B. I feel better when I study with other people.
- C. For these reasons, I think study groups are a good idea.
- D. I like study groups for several reasons.
- E. In addition, a study group helps me stay on schedule.
- F. When I'm alone, I waste time, but with a group, we start on time and focus on our work.
- G. First of all, studying can be a lonely activity.
- H. I know that many jobs require teamwork, so this is good preparation for my future career.

1. **D**, 2. \_\_\_\_\_, 3. \_\_\_\_\_, 4. \_\_\_\_\_, 5. \_\_\_\_\_, 6. **A**, 7. \_\_\_\_\_, 8. **C**

Now, this is the well-organized paragraph. Pay attention to the **topic sentence and conclusion**. And notice the **linking words**. How many reasons are there in the paragraph?

**I like study groups for several reasons.** **First of all**, studying can be a lonely activity. I feel better when I study with other people. **In addition**, a study group helps me stay on schedule. When I'm alone, I waste time, but with a group, we start on time and focus on our work. **Finally**, a study group makes me part of a team. I know that many jobs require teamwork, so this is good preparation for my future career. **For these reasons, I think study groups are a good idea.**

## **Opinion Paragraph: Homework (1)**

**Work with your friends.** Put the following sentences (A-H) into the correct order (1-8) to make a well-organized opinion paragraph. **Underline** the topic sentence, the conclusion and the linking words. Send me the answer on the WhatsApp group on **Tuesday 7 April 2020**.

- A. Second, free education helps the country.
- B. Education should be free in this country for several reasons.
- C. For example, educated people eat healthy food, do exercise and don't smoke.
- D. All people should have a chance to learn.
- E. In my opinion, all governments should have free education.
- F. Finally, good education helps people's health.
- G. A country is stronger if everyone has good education.
- H. First, it's the fair thing to do.

1. \_\_\_\_\_, 2. \_\_\_\_\_, 3. \_\_\_\_\_, 4. \_\_\_\_\_, 5. \_\_\_\_\_, 6. \_\_\_\_\_, 7. \_\_\_\_\_, 8. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Opinion Paragraph: Homework (2)**

Use the same layout to write a well-organised opinion paragraph on the following topic that we discussed in class:

**Teaching is the best job in society. Do you agree/disagree?**

Give your opinion (**ONE** opinion) in the topic sentence and support it with three reasons. Don't forget the conclusion.

The paragraph is due on **Tuesday 14 April 2020**.

**BEST OF LUCK**