

# **WRITING PARAGRAPHS**

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## **Topic Sentence**

### ***What is the topic sentence?***

The topic sentence is the first sentence in a paragraph.

### ***What does it do?***

It introduces the main idea of the paragraph.

### ***How do I write one?***

Summarize the main idea of your paragraph. Tell to the reader what your paragraph will be about.

### ***Example:***

**There are three reasons why Canada is one of the best countries in the world.** First, Canada has an excellent health care system. All Canadians have access to medical services at a reasonable price. Second, Canada has a high standard of education. Students are taught by well-trained teachers and are encouraged to continue studying at university. Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed. Canadian cities have many parks and lots of space for people to live. As a result, Canada is a desirable place to live.

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## **Supporting Details**

### ***What are supporting sentences?***

They come after the topic sentence, making up the body of a paragraph.

### ***What do they do?***

They give details to develop and support the main idea of the paragraph.

### ***How do I write them?***

You should give supporting facts, details, and examples.

### ***Example:***

There are three reasons why Canada is one of the best countries in the world. **First, Canada has an excellent health care system. All Canadians have access to medical services at a reasonable price. Second, Canada has a high standard of education. Students are taught by well-trained teachers and are encouraged to continue studying at university. Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed. Canadian cities have many parks and lots of space for people to live.** As a result, Canada is a desirable place to live.

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## **Closing Sentence**

### ***What is the closing sentence?***

The closing sentence is the last sentence in a paragraph.

### ***What does it do?***

It restates the main idea of your paragraph.

### ***How do I write one?***

Restate the main idea of the paragraph using different words.

### ***Example:***

There are three reasons why Canada is one of the best countries in the world. First, Canada has an excellent health care system. All Canadians have access to medical services at a reasonable price. Second, Canada has a high standard of education. Students are taught by well-trained teachers and are encouraged to continue studying at university. Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed. Canadian cities have many parks and lots of space for people to live. **As a result, Canada is a desirable place to live.**

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## **\*\*Description Paragraph\*\***

In a description paragraph, you are writing about what a person, place, or thing is like. Sometimes, you may describe where a place is located.

**The following words can help you to write a good description paragraph:**

### **Helper Words:**

Properties	Measurement	Analogy	Location
<u>size</u>	<u>length</u>	<u>is like</u>	<u>in</u>
<u>color</u>	<u>width</u>	<u>resembles</u>	<u>above</u>
<u>shape</u>	<u>mass/weight</u>		<u>below</u>
<u>purpose</u>	<u>speed</u>		<u>beside</u>
			<u>near</u>
			<u>north/east/south/west</u>

### **Properties**

#### **size**

Example: Polar bears are big in **size**.

#### **color**

Example: Polar bears are usually white in **color**.

#### **shape**

Example: Polar bears have a special **shape**.

#### **purpose**

Example: The **purpose** of the polar bear's fur is to keep it warm.

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## Measurement

### **length**

Example: The **length** of a polar bear's claws is 20 cm.

### **width**

Example: The **width** of a polar bear's head is about 50 cm.

### **weight**

Example: Polar bears **weigh** up to 650 kg.

### **speed**

Example: Polar bears can swim at a **speed** of 40 km per hour.

## Analogy

### **is like**

Example: A polar bear **is like** other bears in shape.

### **resembles**

Example: A polar bear **resembles** other bears in shape.

## Location

### **in**

Example: Polar bears live **in** cold environments.

### **above**

Example: The ceiling is **above** us.

### **below**

Example: She lives on the floor **below** us.

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## **beside**

Example: The Nova electronics market is **beside** Taipei Main Station.

## **near**

Example: Many companies are located **near** the west coast of Taiwan.

## **north / east / south / west**

Example: Tokyo is **north** of Taipei.

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## **\*\*Compare and Contrast Paragraph\*\***

In a compare and contrast paragraph, you write about the similarities and differences between two or more people, places, things, or ideas.

Example: Write a paragraph comparing the weather in Taipei and Mexico.

**The following words can help you to write a good compare and contrast paragraph:**

### **Helper Words:**

<b>Similarities</b>	<b>Differences</b>
<u>is similar to</u>	<u>the other hand</u>
<u>both</u>	<u>however</u>
<u>also</u>	<u>but</u>
<u>too</u>	<u>in contrast</u>
<u>as well</u>	<u>differs from</u>
	<u>while</u>
	<u>unlike</u>

### **Similarities**

#### **is similar to**

Example: Spring weather in Taipei is **similar to** Spring weather in Mexico.

#### **both**

Example: **Both** places have a lot of rain in the Spring.

#### **also**

Example: Mexico **also** has a lot of rain in the Spring.

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## **too**

Example: Mexico has a rainy spring season, **too**.

## **as well**

Example: **As well**, Mexico has rainy spring season.

## **Differences**

### **on the other hand**

Example: **On the other hand**, winter is much colder in Mexico.

### **however**

Example: **However**, winter is much colder in Mexico.

### **but**

Example: Taipei has a mild winter, **but** Mexico has a cold one.

### **in contrast to**

Example: **In contrast to** Taipei, Mexico has a cold winter.

### **differs from**

Example: Mexico **differs from** Taipei by having a cold winter.

### **while**

Example: **While** Taipei has a mild winter, Mexico has a cold winter.

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## **\*\*Choice Paragraph\*\***

In a paragraph where you have to make a choice, you need to choose which object, idea, or action that you prefer. Often, you will need to give your opinion on a choice of actions or events.

Example: Write a paragraph stating whether you would prefer to play tennis or badminton.

**The following words can help you to write a good choice paragraph:**

### **Helper Words:**

<b>Point of View</b>	<b>Personal Opinion</b>
<u>in my opinion</u>	<u>like/dislike</u>
<u>belief</u>	<u>hope</u>
<u>idea</u>	<u>feel</u>
<u>understanding</u>	
<u>I think that</u>	
<u>I consider</u>	
<u>I believe</u>	
<u>it seems to me</u>	
<u>I prefer</u>	

### **Point of View**

#### **in my opinion**

Example: **In my opinion**, tennis is more fun than badminton.

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## **belief**

Example: My **belief** is that tennis is more fun than badminton.

## **idea**

Example: My **idea** is that tennis is more fun than badminton.

## **understanding**

Example: My **understanding** is that tennis is more fun than badminton.

## **I think that**

Example: **I think that** I would prefer to play tennis and not badminton.

## **I consider**

Example: **I consider** tennis to be more exciting than badminton.

## **I believe**

Example: **I believe** tennis is more exciting than badminton.

## **it seems to me**

Example: **It seems to me** that tennis is more exciting than badminton.

## **I prefer**

Example: **I prefer** tennis over badminton.

## **Personal Opinions**

### **like/dislike**

Example: I **like** the sport of tennis because it is fast and exciting.

### **hope**

Example: I **hope** that I can play tennis in the future.

### **feel**

Example: I **feel** that tennis is my favorite sport.

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## **\*\*Explanation Paragraph\*\***

In an explanation paragraph, you need to explain how or why something happens. Very often in social studies class, you will be asked to explore causes and effects of certain events.

Example: Write a paragraph explaining why so many Europeans moved to America during the 18th century.

**The following words can help you to write a good explanation paragraph:**

### **Helper Words:**

<b>Cause</b>	<b>Effect</b>
<u>because</u>	<u>therefore</u>
<u>since</u>	<u>thus</u>
<u>as a result of</u>	<u>consequently</u>
<u>is due to</u>	<u>hence</u>
	<u>it follows that</u>
	<u>if . . . then</u>

### **Cause**

#### **because**

Example: People moved to America from Europe during the eighteenth century **because** they had poor living conditions in Europe.

#### **since**

Example: **Since** living conditions in Europe were terrible, many people moved to America.

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## **as a result of**

Example: People moved to America from Europe **as a result of** poor living conditions in Europe.

## **is due to / was due to**

Example: The large increase of people going to America **was due to** economic pressures in Europe.

## **Effect**

### **therefore**

Example: Living conditions in Europe were terrible. **Therefore**, many people moved to America for a better life.

### **thus**

Example: Living conditions in Europe were terrible. **Thus**, many people moved to America for a better life.

### **consequently**

Example: Living conditions were terrible in Europe. **Consequently**, many people moved to America.

### **hence**

Example: Living conditions were terrible in Europe. **Hence**, many people moved to America.

### **it follows that**

Example: Living conditions were terrible in Europe. **It follows that** many people moved to America.

### **if ... then**

Example: **If** living conditions were better in Europe, **then** fewer people would have moved to America.

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## **\*\*Evaluation Paragraph\*\***

In an evaluation paragraph, you make judgments about people, ideas, and possible actions. You need to make your evaluation based on certain criteria that you develop. In the paragraph, you will state your evaluation or recommendation and then support it by referring to your criteria.

Example: Write a paragraph evaluating whether pesticides should be used on farms.

**The following words can help you to write a good evaluation paragraph:**

### **Helper Words**

<b>Criteria for Evaluation</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<u>good / bad</u>	<u>suggest</u>
<u>correct / incorrect</u>	<u>recommend</u>
<u>moral / immoral</u>	<u>advise</u>
<u>right / wrong</u>	<u>argue</u>
<u>important / trivial</u>	

### **Criteria**

#### **good / bad**

Example: The use of pesticides such as DDT is **bad** for the environment.

#### **correct / incorrect**

Example: The belief that pesticides must be used is **incorrect**.

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## **moral / immoral**

Example: The use of pesticides to control pests is **immoral** because it harms the environment.

## **right / wrong**

Example: It is **wrong** to use pesticides because they harm the environment.

## **important / trivial**

Example: The issue of pesticides is an **important** one because it affects the environment.

## **Recommendation**

### **suggest**

Example: I **suggest** that pesticides should not be used to control pests.

### **recommend**

Example: I **recommend** that pesticides should not be used because they are harmful to the environment.

### **advise**

Example: I would **advise** farmers not to use pesticides if possible.

### **argue**

Example: I would **argue** that pesticides should not be used because they harm the environment.