

How to Write a Paragraph



A paragraph is a group of sentences about the same topic. To write clear, well-developed, well-organized paragraphs:

- ⇒ Have something to say, find a standpoint
- ⇒ Write about one thing and tell the reader what it is
- ⇒ Explain and support your subject/idea with specific details
- ⇒ Make sure the sentences are in a logical order (coherence)
- ⇒ Make sure you only talk about ONE subject/idea in your paragraph (unity)
- ⇒ Connect your ideas clearly (use transition words & phrases)
- ⇒ Do not cut your paragraph too short and do not let it drag on too long

The most important sentence in a paragraph is THE TOPIC SENTENCE as it introduces the subject of the paragraph and the writer's point of view about the subject.

⇒ Although most people believe that man's best friend is a dog, cats are far more reliable than them.

Considering the topic sentence above, what can we say for
the subject and
the writer's point of view
about the subject of the paragraph?



Example topic sentences: Weak or Strong?

- Should schools provide free computers for their students?
- Learning English can help you in many ways.
- I think that it is important for every woman to carry pepper spray.
- Teenagers should be more outspoken about protecting their rights.
- Libraries contain books.
- I came to Canada on May, 1990 with a heavy luggage on my back.
- My block, at Avenue Silver, is an interesting place to live.
- You will find it easy to make a good spaghetti sauce if you follow these seven steps.

What's missing?

- ⇒ He collects books that were written over a hundred years ago. But he is also interested in the best sellers of today. If I ever need to get him a present, I know I can always please him by buying him a book.

He collects books that were written over a hundred years ago. But he is also interested in the best sellers of today. If I ever need to get him a present, I know I can always please him by buying him a book.

Which of the following topic sentences is the best one for the above paragraph?

- A. Reading is fun.
- B. Books are my father's hobby.
- C. My father was a main influence in my life.

What's missing?

- ⇒ The most beautiful flower is the rose because it comes in so many different colors. Another beautiful flower is the daisy which sometimes grows wild. Spring flowers like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses are also very pretty.

The most beautiful flower is the rose because it comes in so many different colors. Another beautiful flower is the daisy which sometimes grows wild. Spring flowers like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses are also very pretty.

Which of the following topic sentences is the best one for the above paragraph?

- A. Don't you just love spring?
- B. The rose is the most loved flower the world over.
- C. There are many lovely flowers to consider for your garden.

What's missing?

- ⇒ 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. Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed.

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- A. Canada is our friendly neighbor to the north.
- B. There are three reasons why Canada is one of the best countries of the world.
- C. Choose Canada as a great place to vacation.

The supporting sentences

After you make a good start with the topic sentence, it is time to support your opinion with relevant details such as examples, anecdotes, experience, statistics, etc.

Following each topic sentence are two points that relate to the central idea. Write a third point.

Topic sentence: There are advantages to having a small family.

Supporting Statements:

- ⇒ I. Parents can afford more things
- ⇒ II. Making family decisions is easier.
- ⇒ III.

■
Topic Sentence: Watching television has harmful effects on society.

Supporting Statements:

- I. Family members no longer talk to each other.
- II. People lose interest in their communities.
- III.

■
Topic Sentence: Computers have benefited society in several ways.

Supporting Statements:

- I. Operations can be done faster.
- II. Fewer workers are needed, saving money for employees .
- III.

■
Topic Sentence: There are advantages to stopping smoking.


Supporting Statements:

- I. You can have a better social life.
- II. You can get back your self-esteem.
- III.

The conclusion

The last sentence of the paragraph should mark the end of your thoughts on the topic. You may end your paragraph by restating the topic sentence using different words.

My hometown is famous for several amazing natural features. First, it is noted for the Wheaton River, which is very wide and beautiful. On either side of this river, which is 175 feet wide, are many willow trees which have long branches that can move gracefully in the wind. In autumn the leaves of these trees fall and cover the riverbanks like golden snow. Also, on the other side of the town is Wheaton Hill, which is unusual because it is very steep. Even though it is steep, climbing this hill is not dangerous, because there are some firm rocks along the sides that can be used as stairs. There are no trees around this hill, so it stands clearly against the sky and can be seen from many miles away. The third amazing feature is the Big Old Tree. This tree stands two hundred feet tall and is probably about six hundred years old. These three landmarks are truly amazing and make my hometown a famous place.



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Step 1: Write a topic sentence



Topic Sentence

Euthanasia should be legalized for two basic reasons.




Step 2 : Write supporting sentences that relate to your topic sentence.

Supporting Statements

- I. The right to choose one's own destiny should not be taken from their hands.

- II. Life without really living it should rather be regarded as torture.



**Step 3 : Think of examples,
details, and some evidence to
clarify or strengthen your ideas**

SS1: The right to choose one's own destiny should not be taken from their hands.

- ⇒ There's the concept of "dignity of man" in the UDHR which should be interpreted as the respect to the choice of how one will live and/or die.
- ⇒ People are all different and they should have a choice which depends on the quality of life for the person.
- ⇒ Each person has value and is worthy of respect.

SS2: Life without really living it should rather be regarded as torture.

- ⇒ Serious illnesses make people bound to bed which result in wounds in every part of their bodies. Therefore, the pain they suffer from “kills” them day by day.
- ⇒ Beside the physical pain, there’s the psychological pain the sick ones suffer from. For a person who cannot do anything without the help of others, life is a torture.



Step 4 : Write a concluding sentence

Concluding Sentence:

Mercy killing should be allowed because no one can deny one's right to decide on how to live and die.



Step 5 : Use transition words to connect your sentences.



The full paragraph

Euthanasia should be legalized for two basic reasons. First, the right to choose one's own destiny should not be taken from their hands. Needless to say, each person has value and is worthy of respect. In addition, people are all different and they should have a choice which depends on the quality of life for the person. Moreover, "dignity of man" is guaranteed in the UDHR, which should be interpreted as the respect to the choice of how one will live and/or die. Second, life without really living it should rather be regarded as torture. Serious illnesses make people bound to bed which result in wounds in every part of their bodies. **Therefore,** the pain they suffer from "kills" them day by day. **Beside** the physical pain, there's the psychological pain the sick ones suffer from. For a person who cannot do anything without the help of others, life is a torture. **All in all,** what I strongly believe is that **mercy killing should be allowed because no one can deny one's right to decide on how to live and die.**