How to Write an Excellent Paragraph

Writing Skills

Definition of a Paragraph

• A paragraph is a group of sentences that tell /focus on one subject.

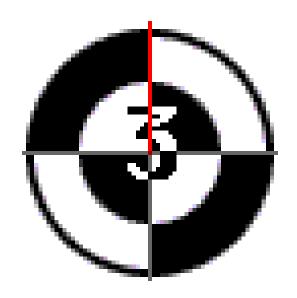


Example of a Paragraph

- Example of one paragraph: "Kim's favorite thing was to spend time with her dog. She played with her dog every day after school. She fed her dog two times a day. In the afternoons, they would go for a walk together. Kim liked her dog a lot!
- Questions: What did Kim like? (her dog) What did she do with her dog? (played with it, fed it, went for a walk with it) What is the paragraph about? (Kim spending time with her dog) This is a paragraph with a group of sentences that tell about Kim and her dog."
- An example of a non-paragraph: "Now listen to this: Luke liked to play sports. The tree was green. The clock stopped working. Lions like to roar real loud. Questions: What is this about? (Luke, a tree, a clock, and lions) Is it a paragraph? (wait for answers) No, because it's not about one thing. It's about completely different things."

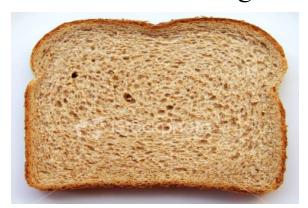
Three parts that make a paragraph

- Topic sentence.
- Supporting details
- Concluding sentence



Topic sentences

- A topic sentence is a sentence that explains or states what you are going to write about .
- It lays the foundation of your paragraph .Just like you lay a foundation for a sandwich using bread.



 Example :I love holiday's because I get to sleep late, eat my favorite breakfast, and play video games.

Topic Sentences

• Example :I love holiday's because I get to sleep late, eat my favorite breakfast, and play video games.

Supporting details give more information about your topic.

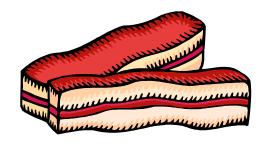
One way to help you add supporting details is to **imagine** your topic sentence as a question. I love holiday's ,but why?

Ask yourself: How can I prove this is true? What examples can I give?

- Just like you add a topping on your sandwich to make it taste delicious . You can and should add a supporting detail to make your paragraph delicious or interesting.
- Examples:
- Detail: I like to sleep late. Elaborate on your details with mini-details to make your paragraph interesting!
- Mini- detail: I usually wake up at 6:30 a.m.
- Mini- detail: However, on my holiday I woke up at 10:00a.m.
- Mini-detail: I slept an extra 3 and ½ hours!

- (Lettuce)
- **Detail:** I ate my favorite breakfast.
- Mini- detail: I went into the kitchen to eat breakfast.
- Mini- detail: I decided to have my favorite pizza for breakfast.
- Mini- detail: It was delicious because I put scrambled eggs, sliced tomatoes, and turkey bacon on

• (Bacon)



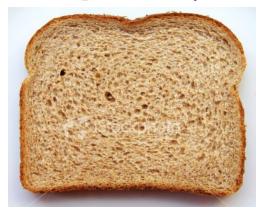
- I can play video games.
- The last thing I did was play my Wii game system.
- I selected the one player option because I was home alone.
- I played three games: tennis, bowling, and golf.
- I won them all!

Concluding Sentence

Bread

• Conclusion-The concluding sentence is an ending sentence that describes what your paragraph was about.

This holiday was the best because I woke up late, ate my favorite breakfast, and conquered my video games.



The Paragraph

I love holiday's because I get to sleep late, eat my favorite breakfast, and play video games. I usually wake up at 6:30 a.m. However on my holiday I woke up at 10:00a.m.I slept an extra 3 and ½ hours! I went into the kitchen to eat breakfast. I decided to have my favorite pizza for breakfast. It was delicious because I put scrambled eggs, sliced tomatoes, and turkey bacon on it. The last thing I did was play my Wii game system. I selected the one player option because I was home alone. I played three games: tennis, bowling, and golf. I won them all! This holiday was the best because I woke up late, ate my favorite breakfast, and conquered my video games.

Great Website for Paragraph Topics

http://www.teachersdesk.org/topics/par_week_program.html