



INTERMEDIATE Paragraph Writing

In general, the purpose of a paragraph is to express **one** point, idea or opinion.

For example: Students require more recreational time in order to better focus on lessons in class.

This main idea is expressed through three sections of a paragraph:

Beginning - Introduce your idea.

Middle - Explain your idea.

End - Make your point again, transition to next paragraph.

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time ... This weaker form is inappropriate for a topic sentence.

Supporting sentences Supporting sentences (notice the plural) provide explanations and support for the topic sentence (main idea) of your paragraph.

For example: In fact, studies have shown that students who enjoy a recess of more than 45 minutes consistently score better on tests immediately following the recess period. Clinical analysis further suggests that physical exercise greatly improves the ability to focus on academic materials.

NOTE: Supporting sentences provide the evidence for your topic sentence. Supporting sentences that include facts, statistics and logical reasoning are much more convincing than simple statements of opinion.

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Concluding sentence The concluding sentence restates the main idea (found in your topic sentence) and reinforces the point or opinion.

For example: Longer periods of recess are clearly required to allow students the best possible chances of success in their studies.

NOTE: Concluding sentences **repeat** the main idea of your paragraph in different words.

Transitional sentence The transitional sentence prepares the reader for the following paragraph.

For example: Clearly, physical exercise is just one of the necessary ingredients for improving student scores on standardized tests.

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