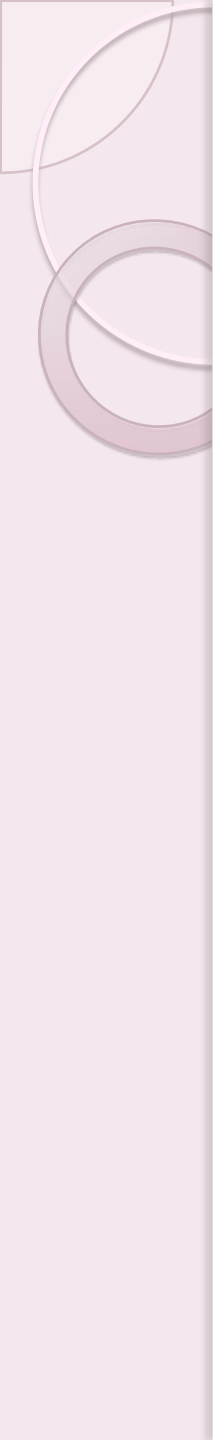


THE PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH





What makes a GOOD
paragraph?

WHAT COMES FIRST??

- Think of the most important part of a paragraph...



TOPIC SENTENCE!

- What is it?
 - 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 the paragraph

SUPPORTING DETAILS

- What are supporting details?
 - They come after the topic sentence
 - They make up the body of the paragraph
- What do they do?
 - They give **details and support** the main idea
- How do I write them?
 - Give supporting facts, details, and examples

CLOSING SENTENCE

- What is it?
 - The last sentence in a paragraph
- What does it do?
 - It restates the **main idea**
- How do I write one?
 - Restate the main idea but **using different words**
 - The closing sentence should be very similar to the topic sentence.

TRANSITION SENTENCE

- What is it?
 - The last sentence of a paragraph (instead of closing sentence)
- What does it do?
 - Closes one topic while **leading** into the next
- How do I write one?
 - **Summarize** main idea of paragraph and **hint** at topic for next one

THINK OF A PARAGRAPHS AS CHEESEBURGERS!



- You have the buns on top and bottom
 - **Topic sentence**
 - **Closing sentence**
- You have the burger in the middle
 - **Supporting details**
- You have the extras: cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, condiments
 - **Extra details, quotations, and examples to spice it up**
- Sometimes it is a double or triple-decker!
 - **Transition sentences needed to lead into the next**



HOW LONG IS A PARAGRAPH?

- 5-6 sentences in TOTAL
- 1 Topic sentence
- 1 Closing/Transition sentence
- 3-4 sentences of supporting details

WHAT DO I USE AS SUPPORT?

- Support should come in two forms, both of which you should use:
 - **Specific examples** from the story: actions, events, etc. (in your own words)
 - *While Rainsford hides in the tree, Zaroff looks up, and then walks away, showing that Rainsford has not yet proven to be enough of a challenge.*
 - *Montresor uses reverse psychology to convince Fortunato to come to the catacombs by saying Fortunato is probably too busy and it is too cold down there, which only pushes Fortunato to want to go with Montresor.*
 - **Quotations** from the story:
 - *Doodle yells out, “Don’t leave me Brother, don’t leave me!” before Brother runs as fast as he can from Doodle during the storm.*
 - *“There are only two types of people in this world; the hunters and the huntees,” Rainsford says to Whitney at the beginning of the story.*

ADDITIONAL DETAILS...

- Titles of stories should be put in “quotation marks”.
- Titles of novels, plays (larger works of literature or movies) should be underlined.

Open Ended Questions (OEQs)

- Open-ended questions are questions that ask you to write out a thoughtful response to a question.
- This is NOT a “yes or no” answer.
- You must...
 - ***explain,***
 - give ***detail,***
 - and ***make connections.***

Format of OEQs

- OEQs usually ask you to answer 2 parts of a question.
- The prompt will have 2 **bullet points**.
- For each bullet point, you will write **one paragraph** (2 paragraphs in total).
- You will usually have to ***explain and analyze*** something pertaining to a story in the first bullet.
- The second bullet might ask you to expand on that topic or make a ***personal connection***.
 - Tell a story
 - Make a judgment or state your opinion and *explain*

Don't forget the parts of a GOOD paragraph!!!

- You MUST use support from the story to show your understanding and ability to connect.
- You also must have strong topic, closing, and transitional sentences.

LET'S TRY IT OUT!



OEQ: The Cask of Amontillado

- *In “The Scarlet Ibis,” Brother feels ashamed of his little brother, Doodle, due to Doodle’s physical disability.*
- How does Brother’s shame hurt both Doodle and Brother himself?
- What can you learn from Brother’s experiences that you can apply to your own family relationship?

OEQ Peer editing...

- Underline each TOPIC sentence in red.
- Underline the CLOSING sentence in blue.
- Underline the TRANSITION sentence in green.
- Underline the SUPPORTING DETAILS in orange.
- Underline any quotations or specific textual evidence in PURPLE.

Answer the following...

- Are the topic and closing/transition sentences both focusing on the main idea (but in different words)?
- Does the transition sentence summarize the main idea and hint at the next paragraph's topic?
- Are the supporting details specific enough? Did the writer use examples, details, and/or quotations? How many?
- Are both paragraphs at least 5 sentences?
- What could be improved upon (give at least one suggestion)?
- What does the writer do well (give at least one compliment)?