

# WHAT IS A PARAGRAPH?

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# A PARAGRAPH IS...

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A collection of related sentences dealing  
with one topic

# WHAT IS A TOPIC SENTENCE?

The Topic Sentence:

- Expresses the main idea of a paragraph.
- Is usually the first sentence of a paragraph.
- Contains the central idea.
- Is also the most general sentence in a paragraph.

## EXAMPLE OF A TOPIC SENTENCE

There are three reasons why Canada is one of the best countries of the world.

# WHAT IS A SUPPORTING SENTENCE?

The Supporting Sentence:

- Develops, explains and supports the main idea of the paragraph.
- Contains facts, examples and details.
- Explains why the main idea it's true.

## EXAMPLES OF SUPPORTING SENTENCES

First, Canada has an excellent health care system. Second, Canada has a high standard of education. Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed.

# WHAT IS A CONCLUDING SENTENCE?

## The Concluding Sentence:

- Is usually the last sentence of the paragraph.
- Restates the main idea.
- Is used to finish the paragraph or to prepare the reader for the following paragraph.

## EXAMPLES OF CONCLUDING SENTENCES

As a result, Canada is a desirable place to live.

For those reasons, Canada attracts a lot of immigrants. Wouldn't you like to live there?

Canada is a great model for other countries to follow.



# ANALYZE...

Which of the following examples cannot be used as a topic sentence and why?

My hometown is famous for several amazing natural features.

There are two reasons why some people like to buy cars with automatic transmissions and two reasons why others like to buy cars with manual transmissions.

Clouds are white.

## CHECK THE STRUCTURE OF THIS PARAGRAPH...

Through the centuries rats have managed to survive all our efforts to destroy them. We have poisoned them and trapped them. We have fumigated, flooded, and burned them. Some rats even survived atomic bomb tests conducted on Entwetokatoll in the Pacific after World War II. In spite of all our efforts, these enemies of ours continue to prove that they are the most indestructible of pests.

*Can you identify the TS, SS and CS?*

## TS, SS & CS

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# WHEN WRITING A PARAGRAPH REMEMBER...

To check:

- Content
- Structure
- Form

# CONTENT

- Develop **only one** idea.
- Be coherent. This makes your paragraph easy to understand.
- Focus on the main idea.
- Elaborate and develop your topic sentence. This means that the topic should be explained in detail.
- Add explanations, details and examples to the supporting sentences.

# STRUCTURE

Make sure your paragraph has:

- One topic sentence.
- As many supporting sentences as you need.
- A concluding sentence.

# FORM

Make sure your paragraph:

- Has a five-space indentation.
- There are no lines or blank spaces in between sentences.

And that you:

- Write clear and simple sentences (S+V+C)
- Check your spelling and grammar.