

PARAGRAPH WRITING

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Page no. 315-318

Video link: <https://youtu.be/aOe20LKjmxw>

Paragraph

Definition: A paragraph is a number of sentences grouped together and relating to one topic; or, a group of related sentences that develop a single point.

There is, therefore, no rule as to the length of paragraphs. They may be short or long according to the necessity of the case. A paragraph may consist of a single sentence, or of many sentences.

PRINCIPLES OF PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

1. UNITY:

The first and most important principle to be observed in constructing a paragraph is that of Unity. Just as each sentence deals with one thought, each paragraph must deal with one topic or idea- and with no more than one. In writing an essay, for example, every head, and every sub-head, should have its own paragraph to itself. And every sentence in the paragraph must be closely connected with the main topic of the paragraph. The paragraph and every part of it must be the expression of one theme or topic.

The topic, theme or subject of a paragraph is very often expressed in one sentence of the paragraph - generally the first. This sentence is called the topical sentence (because it states the topic), or the key-sentence (because it unlocks or opens the subject to be dealt with in the paragraph).

2. ORDER

The second principle of paragraph construction is Order - that is, logical sequence of thought or development of the subject. Events must be related in the order of their occurrence, and all ideas should be connected with the leading idea and arranged according to their importance or order.

(Note: The two most important sentences in the paragraph are the first and the last. The first, which should as a rule be the topical sentence, should arouse the interest of the reader; and the last should satisfy it. The first, or topical, sentence states the topic - a fact, a statement, or a proposition; the last should bring the whole paragraph on this topic to a conclusion or summing up).

3. VARIETY

A third principle of paragraph construction is Variety; by which is meant that, to avoid monotony, the paragraph of composition should be of different lengths, and not always of the same sentence construction.

To sum up: the essentials of good paragraph construction are - (1) Unity. (2) A good topical sentence. (3) Logical sequence of thought. (4) Variety. (5) A full and rounded final sentence in conclusion.

Basic Paragraph Structure

1. Topic Sentence

What is a topic sentence? A topic sentence is the first sentence of the body paragraph. Simply put, the topic sentence introduces the topic of the paragraph. A good topic sentence will be broad enough to allow for explication but narrow enough that it does not require a paragraph that is too long.

2. Supporting Sentences

What is a supporting sentence? The supporting sentences of a paragraph are the sentences between the topic sentence and the concluding sentence. The supporting sentences "support" the topic sentence. That is, they explain and elaborate the point of the paragraph.

3. Concluding Sentence

What is a concluding sentence? The concluding sentence is the last sentence in the paragraph. It should succinctly end the paragraph and transition to the next paragraph, if appropriate.