

Paragraph Development



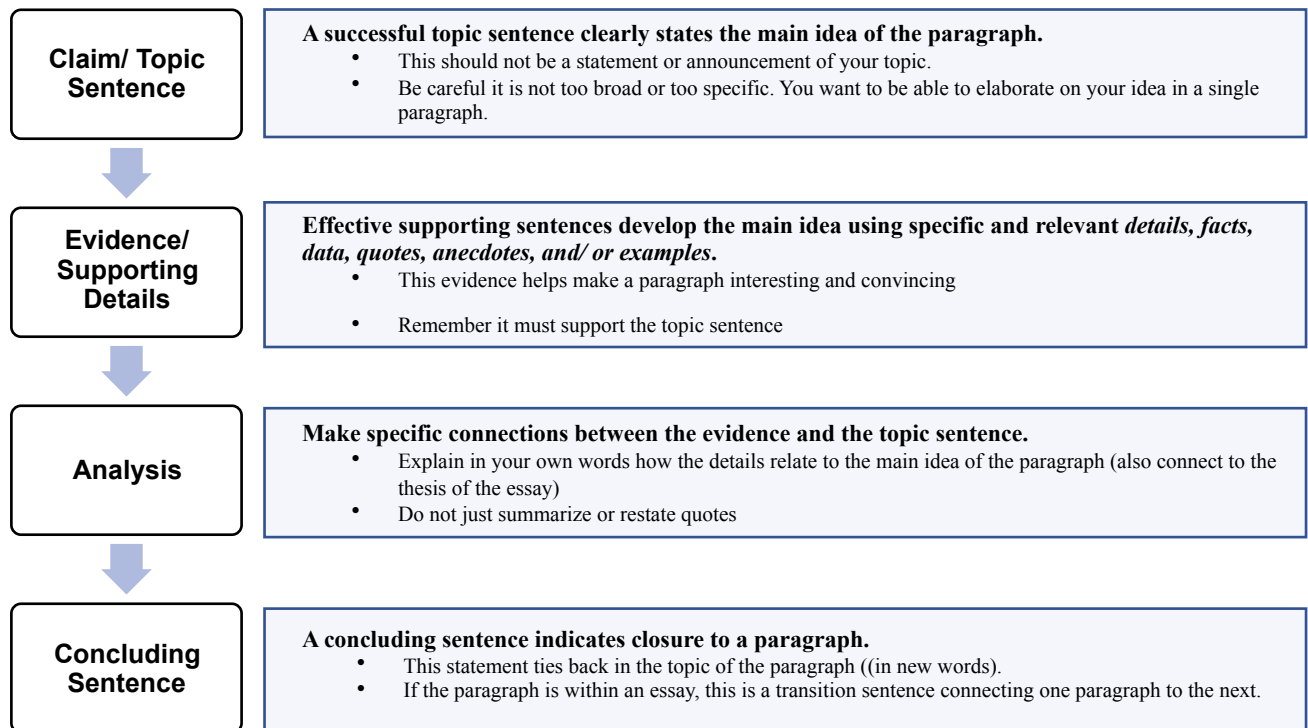
Writing clear and effective paragraphs is important in all types of writing. Learning how to write an academic paragraph is essential to writing well developed paragraphs for both the classroom and the workplace.

Writing a paragraph begins with knowing how to connect sentences and ideas together. Once you know the topic of your paragraph, you can begin to piece together supporting evidence and information related to your topic. Your paragraph guides your reader by explaining your claim or argument.

PLAN: Before you begin to write, ask yourself some questions about the **assignment** (*what* are you expected to write about), the **purpose** (*why* you are writing) and the **audience** (*for whom* you are writing). If you answer the questions before you begin writing, you will save yourself time later. Planning will help you develop your topic and ideas. **Brainstorming** (writing down all the ideas you can think of related to a topic) is an effective way of getting your ideas down on paper.

ORGANIZE: Once you have ideas, organizing your thoughts is the next step (selecting, arranging, and ordering the ideas that support the main point of the paragraph).

WRITE: The main components of a cohesive, well written paragraph include:



In addition to understanding the components of the paragraph, you must keep three important strategies in mind:

Unity - staying on topic

- ✓ Every paragraph should have only one main topic. Staying on topic keeps your ideas clear for your audience.

Coherence - organizing your ideas

- ✓ Organizing your ideas clearly helps your audience follow your thoughts. A paragraph is well developed when it includes the details, facts, and evidence needed to support the topic sentence.

Transition Words or Connectives - writing with flow

- ✓ Transition words or connectives are signals to your readers you are changing direction in your paragraph. These words make your writing flow smoothly and help guide your reader to other parts of the topic.

