



Paragraph Development

A paragraph is a collection of related sentences discussing a single topic. The basic rule is to focus each paragraph on one main idea.

Structure of a Paragraph

Topic Sentence	States the main idea of the paragraph. Usually the first sentence.
Paragraph Body	Presents evidence (quotes, paraphrases, statistics, etc.) that supports the topic sentence.
Conclusion/Transition Sentence	Restates the main idea of the paragraph using different words than the topic sentence, and makes a transition to the next paragraph.

Elements of a Paragraph

Unity: The entire paragraph should focus on a single topic.

Coherence: All of the sentences in a paragraph should logically connect to each other. This may be achieved through logical and verbal bridges.

Logical Bridges:

- Each sentence is about the same topic as stated in the topic sentence

Verbal Bridges:

- Repeat a key word from a previous sentence
- Use a pronoun (or synonym) to refer to a noun in a previous sentence
- Use conjunctive adverbs to link ideas from different sentences, i.e., however, moreover, thus, etc.

Development: Only *necessary* and *relevant* items to the overall thesis of the paper should be included. Here are some methods for a well-developed paragraph:

- Use examples and illustrations
- Include quotes, paraphrases, facts, and statistics that support your thesis
- Comment on quotes and paraphrases from other texts
- Use an anecdote or story to illustrate a point
- Define key terms
- Compare and contrast similarities and differences
- Evaluate causes and effects
- Examine consequences
- Describe and analyze
- Offer a chronology of an event (time segments)