

# EXPANDING IDEAS

## AND DEVELOPING PARAGRAPHS

A vibrant green background features a large, stylized illustration of a person with blue hair and a blue shirt riding a large, multi-colored pencil that is shaped like a rocket. The pencil has a yellow eraser at the tail and a blue and orange body. The person has their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. Surrounding the pencil are various icons: a glowing lightbulb, a green paper airplane, and several green gears. Small white stars are scattered throughout the scene. At the bottom left, there are large, white, stylized clouds.

PAULA ROSANA ASAD

English Language Teacher and Mindulf Educator

THEORY, PLANS AND LOTS OF PRACTICE  
TO HELP STUDENTS PRODUCE AMAZING  
PIECES OF WRITING!

B1

B2

# Contents

- ✓ Are you looking to spice up your writing lessons with engaging, and meaningful activities? Do your students have difficulties when
- ✓ they have to develop paragraphs? If this is the case, then, this AMAZING RESOURCE is for YOU! This scaffolded writing unit is perfect
- ✓ to help your learners write solid and detailed paragraphs.

## Contents

1. What is a paragraph?
2. The Topic Sentence
3. Parts of a paragraph
4. Elements of a paragraph
5. Fill in the blanks with the correct transition word
6. Paragraph Detective: Analyse the paragraph
7. Craft a paragraph
8. Sources and resources

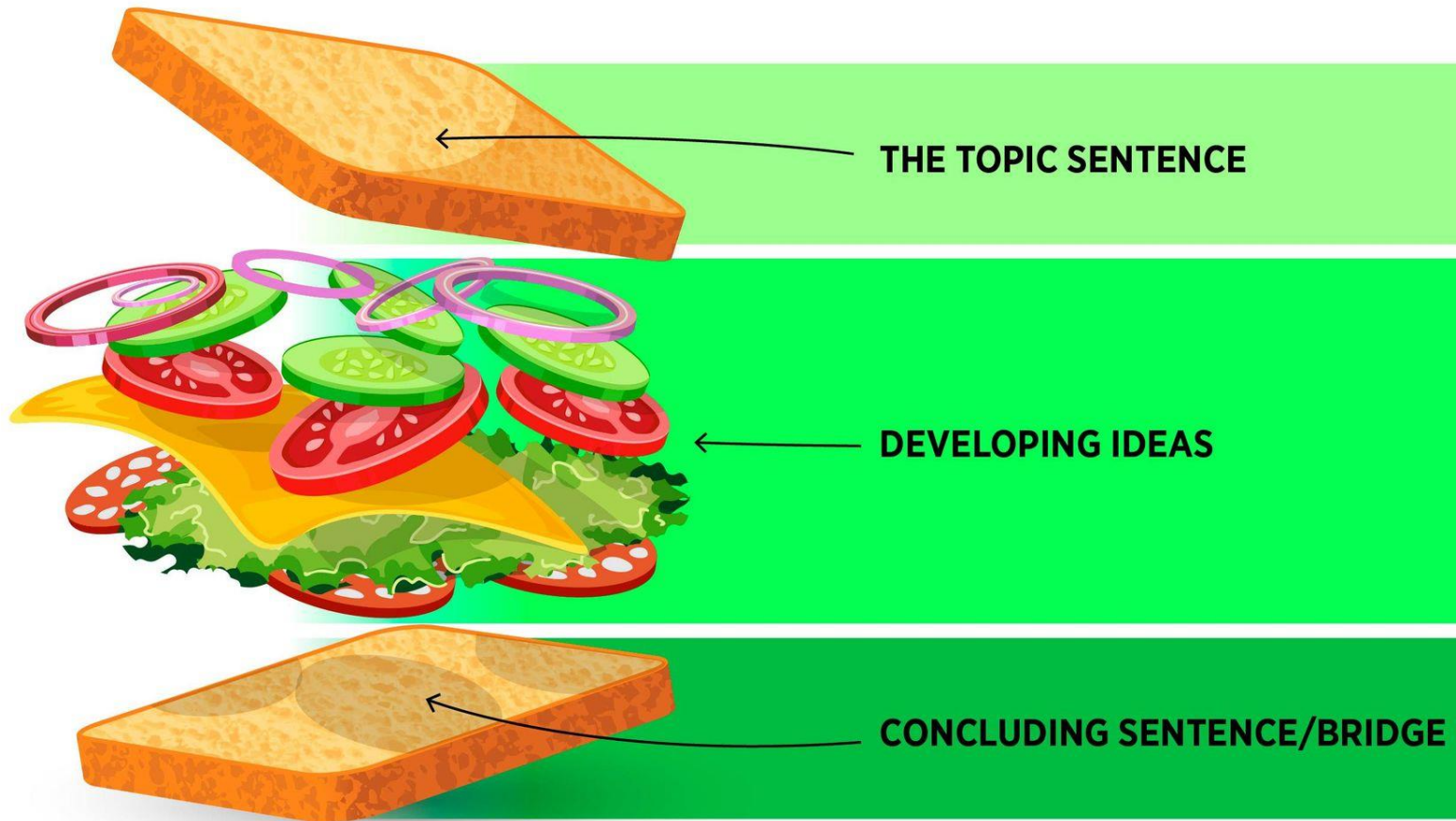
# What is a paragraph?

A paragraph is a group of sentences or sometimes a single sentence that forms a unit and the sentence or sentences support one main idea.

Source: <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/paragraphs/>

# Parts of a paragraph

Paragraphs consist of three parts: **the topic sentence**, **developing ideas**, and **the concluding or the bridge sentence** to the next paragraph or section.



# The Topic sentence



The topic sentence is the most important sentence in a paragraph. It helps organize the paragraph by summarizing the information in it. All the information in each paragraph must be related to the topic sentence.

Every topic sentence has a controlling idea. The controlling idea shows the main point of the paragraph.

Example:

Topic sentence: There are many reasons why pollution in Mexico is one of the worst in the world.

Controlling Idea: Pollution Reasons



# Elements of a Paragraph



Unity: all the sentences in the paragraph must be connected to the main idea or topic sentence.

Coherence: The sentences should be arranged in a logical manner and should follow a definite plan for development (Rosen and Behrens 119).

A good development: Every idea in the paragraph should be well developed through evidence and details that work together to explain the paragraph's controlling idea.

Transitions: Within a paragraph, transitions are often single words or short phrases that help to establish relationships between ideas and to create a logical progression of those ideas in a paragraph.



# Transition Words

Read the sentences and complete them with a transition word from the box!

even though / although / for instance / so / but / moreover /

1. \_\_\_\_\_ most people consider piranhas to be quite dangerous, they are, for the most part, entirely harmless.

2. You can't grow mangos, avocados, oranges, bananas and similar fruits in the UK \_\_\_\_\_ they have to be imported.

3. All rain is slightly acidic, \_\_\_\_\_ the term Acid Rain is used to describe rain that has mixed with a range of industrial pollutants.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ online learning has both advantages and disadvantages, the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks. \_\_\_\_\_, most of the disadvantages can be reduced through careful planning.

5. There are ways you can make boring tasks more pleasant. \_\_\_\_\_, listen to Spotify while you work.

# Transition Words

Read the sentences and complete them with a transition word from the box!

as long as / before / so / however / consequently / for example

1. Some people in New Jersey built their houses very close to the shoreline. \_\_\_\_\_, they have had to spend a lot of money trying to protect their property from the sea.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the invention of internet, people spent more of their leisure time reading.
3. It is true that these days everything you need is a few clicks away \_\_\_\_\_ you have internet access. \_\_\_\_\_, not everyone has working internet all the time, \_\_\_\_\_ in certain buildings or remote locations, \_\_\_\_\_ we do need to be able to remember information..



# Transition Words

Read the sentences and complete them with a transition word from the box!

all in all / however / firstly / so / secondly

lots of students hate wearing uniforms. \_\_\_\_\_, there are many reasons why they should wear them.

\_\_\_\_\_, if students wear uniforms, parents can save money. They won't need to buy many different clothes for their kids. Fees, books, school bags are very expensive \_\_\_\_\_ that will help!

\_\_\_\_\_, uniforms make students look the same. When all students are dressed alike, competition among students over clothing choices and the teasing of those who are dressed in less expensive or less fashionable outfits can be eliminated.

\_\_\_\_\_, uniforms at school are beneficial for students. Students can pick their own clothes when they are outside school.

# Paragraph Detective

Read the paragraphs and highlight in yellow the topic sentences in each of them. Then, underline the supporting details and examples. Write what the controlling idea is.

*Like sharks, snakes, and spiders, piranhas are widely feared. Although most people consider piranhas to be quite dangerous, they are, for the most part, entirely harmless. Piranhas rarely feed on large animals; they eat smaller fish and aquatic plants. When confronted with humans, piranhas' first instinct is to flee, not attack. Their fear of humans makes sense. Far more piranhas are eaten by people than people are eaten by piranhas. If the fish are well-fed, they won't bite humans.*

Controlling Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

*Supermarkets have opened up huge markets for developing countries to export their foods. You can't grow mangos, avocados, oranges, bananas and similar fruits in the UK so they have to be imported. To get a good selection of quality fruits, supermarkets pick the best types available and concentrate on providing perfect examples of the best products. After all, how many different types of apple can you name, and would you notice the difference anyway?*

Controlling idea: \_\_\_\_\_

# Paragraph Detective

Read the paragraphs and highlight in yellow the topic sentences in each of them. Then, underline the supporting details and examples. Write what the controlling idea is.

All rain is slightly acidic, but the term Acid Rain is used to describe rain that has mixed with a range of industrial pollutants and become far more acidic than it could normally become. Air borne pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and assorted hydrocarbons react in the air with sunlight and water to form nitric acid, sulphuric acid and assorted other mineral acids and ammonium salts.

Controlling idea: \_\_\_\_\_

*The revolutionary theory of plate tectonics originated early in the 20th century, although it did not gain general acceptance until the late 1960s. The German meteorologist, geophysicist, and explorer Alfred I. Wegener is now given credit for the first step in understanding the movement of the lithosphere. In the period 1910-1912 he formulated the theory called continental drift and collected evidence from the rocks, fossils, and climate of various continents to show that they had once been joined together. Wegener had little data on the oceanic crust, so he thought that the continents merely moved through that crust.*

Controlling Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

# Paragraph Detective

Read the paragraphs and highlight in yellow the topic sentences in each of them. Then, underline the supporting details and examples. Write what the controlling idea is.

Constellations are patterns of stars in the sky. Over many thousands of years, human beings living on the Earth have looked up and seen the shapes of people, animals and everyday objects, they 'joined the dots' of the stars to form patterns in the sky. They gave these shapes names, some of which we still use today. But why did they bother with constellations at all? One reason is that having constellations makes it easier to find your way around the sky. This is useful for finding north, or working out the date or the time. When there were no compasses, clocks or watches, this was all very important.

Controlling Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

Multiculturalism is nothing new to England. Its ancient settlers include the Romans, Germanic Jutes, Angles and Saxons, the Vikings, from Scandinavia, and the Normans and Huguenots, from France. Many of our place names are Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Viking or Norman. Parts of place names such as 'caster', 'ham', 'ford', 'stead' and 'de la' all hint at foreign invaders using their own languages to name places.

Controlling Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

# Paragraph Detective

Read the paragraphs and highlight in yellow the topic sentences in each of them. Then, underline the supporting details and examples. Write what the controlling idea is.

Only men, boys and unmarried girls were allowed to attend the Olympic Games. Married women were barred. If they were caught sneaking in, they could be thrown off the side of a mountain as punishment! However, women could still own horses in the chariot races at the Olympics and unmarried women had their own festival at Olympia every four years.

Controlling Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

The last Roman soldiers left Britain in 410. New people came in ships across the North Sea – the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around AD 410 to 1066. They were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England. If we use the modern names for the countries they came from, the Saxons were German-Dutch, the Angles were southern Danish, and the Jutes were northern Danish.

Controlling Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

# Paragraph Detective

Read the paragraphs and highlight in yellow the topic sentences in each of them. Then, underline the supporting details and examples. Write what the controlling idea is.

Before 1900, China, which had once been the world's greatest civilisation, seemed in terminal decline. The biggest humiliation having been the Opium Wars, when Britain forced the Chinese government to allow the import of the drug opium. In 1911, a revolution overthrew the emperor, but did not reform the country, which just dissolved into anarchy, when China was controlled by many, quarrelling, local warlords.

Controlling Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

After Hiroshima, and particularly after 1949 when the Russian scientists developed the atomic bomb, politicians realised that the bomb would change international politics. Another 'hot war' would kill all humankind. War would be MAD (mutually assured destruction). So America and Russia stopped short of war. They didn't declare war. But they did everything to oppose each other. This was called the 'cold war'. It lasted until 1989.

Controlling Idea: \_\_\_\_\_



# Craft a Paragraph!

Develop the topic sentences. Add details. Think about what the controlling idea is.

Topic Sentence: However, having a pet can have many benefits.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Topic Sentence: Effective leaders have certain characteristics.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Craft a Paragraph!

Develop the topic sentences. Add details. Think about what the controlling idea is.

Topic Sentence: Cooking requires a number of different skills.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Topic Sentence: It is important to be ready before a tornado.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Craft a Paragraph!

Develop the topic sentences. Add details. Think about what the controlling idea is.

Topic Sentence: Schools must teach money management.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Topic Sentence: It's very easy to put a text on Tiktok videos.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Craft a Paragraph!

Develop the topic sentences. Add details. Think about what the controlling idea is.

Topic Sentence: Exercise is really good for one's physical and mental health.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Topic Sentence: Being an only child is hard.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Craft a Paragraph!

Develop the topic sentences. Add details. Think about what the controlling idea is.

Topic Sentence: England is famous for its castles and in the north there are lots of them.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Topic Sentence: These are the reasons why one in three gym goers don't break a sweat when they work out.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Craft a Paragraph!

Develop the topic sentences. Add details. Think about what the controlling idea is.

Topic Sentence: These are some simple steps to give a presentation.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Topic Sentence: With online dating sites, finding a partner has never been easier.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Craft a Paragraph!

Develop the topic sentences. Add details. Think about what the controlling idea is.

Topic Sentence: Moving to another country is hard but I learnt many things.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Topic Sentence: Stress causes many health problems.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Craft a Paragraph!

Develop the topic sentences. Add details. Think about what the controlling idea is.

Topic Sentence: Even though having money is important, it's not everything.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Topic Sentence: Internet makes things easier.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Sources and Resources



## Paragraphs

<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/paragraphs/>

## Controlling Ideas

<https://www.rit.edu/ntid/sea/processes/paragraph/practice/ideas#scroll=0>

## Texts Sources

<http://www.geography-site.co.uk/pages/citizenship/britishness.html>

<http://www.geography-site.co.uk/pages/citizenship/supermarkets.html>

<http://www.geography-site.co.uk/pages/environ/acid.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/articles/z36j7ty>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm/articles/zq2mbsg>

<http://www.johndclare.net/Chinal.htm>

## Transition Words

[https://owl.purdue.edu/engagement/ged\\_preparation/part\\_1\\_lessons\\_1\\_4/transitions.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/engagement/ged_preparation/part_1_lessons_1_4/transitions.html)



# Thanks

*for downloading my products!*



**THE**  
*resourceful*  
**ENGLISH**  
**TEACHER**

Please, remember to leave feedback to earn TPT credits which can be used toward future purchases. If you have any comment concerning this product please send me an email to [theresourcefulenglishteacher@gmail.com](mailto:theresourcefulenglishteacher@gmail.com)

To get more resources and project ideas please visit my store and website:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/The-Resourceful-English-Teacher>

[www.theresourcefulenglishteacher.com](http://www.theresourcefulenglishteacher.com)

*Be part of my community!*



resourcefulenglishteacher



theresourcefulenglishteacher

*Join my community of resourceful teachers on telegram!*



<https://t.me/resourcefulteachers>

