English 9 Ms. Wolbers

How to Write a Perfect Paragraph

Topic Sentence

• What is the Topic Sentence?

The topic sentence is the first sentence in a paragraph.

• What does it do?

It introduces the main idea, controlling idea, or argument of the paragraph. It should tell the reader exactly what will be discussed, explained or described in the body of the paragraph.

• How do I write one?

Narrow the topic or question provided by your teacher into a single statement or answer. This statement should summarize the main idea of your paragraph to make clear what your focus will be. Of course, it should be a full sentence and express a complete thought.

Supporting Details

• What are supporting sentences?

They follow the topic sentence, making up the **body** of your paragraph.

• What do they do?

They give details to develop and support the main idea or argument of the paragraph.

• How do I write them?

Provide additional facts, descriptive details, or concrete examples that are relevant, and deepen your reader's understanding of the topic.

You should have three supporting points.

Each supporting point should be explained in at least two to three additional sentences.

In total, your body should include 6 to 10 sentences.

Concluding Sentence

• What is the Concluding Sentence?

The concluding sentence is the final sentence in a paragraph.

What does it do?

It restates the main idea, controlling idea, or argument of your paragraph. It should remind the reader of the paragraph's purpose.

How do I write one?

Restate or rephrase your topic sentence in new words.