

Writing 101 - Paragraph

Following this road map will lead to a more coherent, organized and engaging piece of writing.

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| <p>Introduction:</p> <p><u>Opening Sentence</u> Introduce the topic (include all information available)</p> <p><u>Theme/Thesis</u> (expresses the main idea of your paragraph and makes a claim that directly answers a question)</p> <p>+</p> <p><u>Forecast</u> (a list of arguments [3] that will be proved throughout the paragraph)</p> | <p>This is 2 or 3 sentences that explain what your paragraph will be about and includes a list of your proof. It can include: author, title, characters, and themes and will include the arguments you will make. It should be clear and concise.</p> <p>Example introduction:</p> <p>In the novel <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>, by J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter is a young wizard starting his first year at Hogwarts. Throughout the story, Harry is tested by many trials and must overcome the evil Voldemort. With the help of his two best friends, Ron and Hermione; Head- Master Dumbledore and some of the Professors at Hogwarts, Harry eventually defeats the wicked Voldemort and successfully completes his first year at Hogwarts.</p> |
| <p>Argument 1 [Proof]</p> <p>TEC:</p> <p>Topic Sentence <i>Example(s)</i> <u>Commentary</u></p> <p><i>*Arguments should be made in the order they are listed in the introduction</i></p> | <p>Arguments help to prove your theme statement. They include: actions, quotes and thoughts from characters in the text. Ensure that you follow the theme statement for order! Start your argument with a topic sentence, followed by your example(s), and end with a comment to solidify your point.</p> <p>Example argument:</p> <p>Throughout the novel, Harry relies on his two best friends, Ron and Hermione, to help him battle evil. <i>For example, when the trio are required to play a real-life edition of chess as their first test, Ron 'sacrifices' himself in order to allow Harry to make it through to the next challenge. Because of this selfless act by Ron, Harry is able to eventually find the 'Philosopher's Stone' and thwart Voldemort.</i></p> |
| <p>Argument 2 [Proof]</p> | <p>Continue to write your paragraph by introducing your second piece of proof. Remember to include a topic sentence, followed by your example(s), and end with a comment to solidify your point.</p> |

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| <p>TEC:</p> <p>Topic Sentence <i>Example(s)</i> <u>Commentary</u></p> <p><i>*Arguments should be made in the order they are listed in the introduction</i></p> | <p>Example argument: Many times throughout the story, Harry calls upon Dumbledore, the Headmaster of Hogwarts for help. <i>When Harry's aunt and uncle are unwilling to let Harry read his letter from Hogwarts, it's Dumbledore who sends an owl to fill the house with hundreds of letters to ensure Harry attends school. <u>The result of the help from Dumbledore is that Harry eventually enrolls at the Hogwarts School for Wizards, and begins his journey to greatness.</u></i></p> |
| <p>Argument 3 [Proof]</p> <p>TEC:</p> <p>Topic Sentence <i>Example(s)</i> <u>Commentary</u></p> <p><i>*Arguments should be made in the order they are listed in the introduction</i></p> | <p>Continue to write your paragraph by introducing your third piece of proof. Remember to include a topic sentence, followed by your example(s), and end with a comment to solidify your point.</p> <p>Example argument: Although many Professors seemingly don't like Harry, some are very useful in helping him defeat evil. <i>During his first Quidditch match, Harry's broom is put under a spell intended to send him to his death; however, Professor Snape helps Harry by putting a counter-spell on the broom. <u>With this help from Professor Snape, Harry is able to stay on his broom, avoid death, and help his team to victory in the Quidditch match.</u></i></p> |
| <p>Conclusion</p> <p>2-3 sentences that clearly re-states the thesis/theme and provides closure through a concise last bit of commentary</p> | <p>Your conclusion should also be clear and concise. For a paragraph assignment, it should only be 2-3 sentences.</p> <p>It should accomplish the following: ✓ Restate your theme statement (use different wording if poss) ✓ Include a last bit of commentary to ensure closure</p> <p>It should never: ✓ Start a new idea (or argument)</p> <p>Example conclusion: Throughout the novel, Harry Potter enjoys the help of his best friends, Ron and Hermione, Headmaster Dumbledore, and some other Professors, to help him overcome many evils. In the end, with this help, Harry is able to defeat Voldemort, and along with his friends, successfully completes his first year at Hogwarts.</p> |