

# Paragraph Writing

## MODULE



A Guide for English  
Teacher Trainers

J A E L A N I , M , A P P . L I N G .

# **MODULE PARAGRAPH WRITING**



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# Author's Preface

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

As students of UIN Mataram, you are likely aware of the importance of clear and effective communication in academic and professional contexts. Writing is a critical skill that you will need to master in order to excel in your studies and future careers. In particular, the ability to write effective paragraphs is essential to communicating your ideas and arguments persuasively.

The purpose of this module is to provide you with the tools and techniques necessary to write effective paragraphs. We will cover the basics of paragraph structure and organization, including how to write clear and concise topic sentences, develop supporting details, and create smooth transitions between paragraphs. We will also discuss how to create coherence and unity within your paragraphs, as well as how to revise and edit your work for clarity and effectiveness.

As an experienced writing instructor, I have designed this module specifically for students at UIN Mataram. I have taken into account the unique challenges and opportunities that you may face in your academic and professional writing, and I have tailored this module to meet your needs.

I would like to express my gratitude to UIN Mataram for providing me with the opportunity to develop this module, and to the faculty and staff who have provided their support and guidance throughout the process. I hope that you find this module informative, engaging, and useful in your writing endeavors.

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ



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# Intro to the Course

## 1. Introduction

This course is a preliminary course in English writing and is designed to help its participants master the fundamentals of Paragraph writing which integrates the process of writing, paragraph structure and principles of unity and coherence. Accordingly, the general discussion in this course includes the process of writing, narrative and descriptive paragraph structure and the principles of unity and coherence. To accommodate the achievement of learning outcome, the course is conducted through lecturer's brief presentation, class discussion, and paragraph writing workshops (project) with the aid of ICT and various kinds of useful teaching media. To support the aforementioned activities, peer review activities are incorporated during the in-class activities as well as additional writing assignments outside the class-hours.

## 2. Objectives

The aims of learning Paragraph Writing for English Teacher Training Students are as follow:

1. Understanding of the basic structure of a paragraph: Students will learn how to structure a paragraph with a clear topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence.
2. Ability to write effective topic sentences: Students will learn how to write topic sentences that clearly and concisely communicate the main idea of the paragraph.
3. Development of supporting details: Students will learn how to develop and organize supporting details that provide evidence to support the topic sentence.
4. Creation of smooth transitions: Students will learn how to create smooth transitions between paragraphs to maintain coherence and flow in their writing.
5. Understanding of coherence and unity: Students will learn how to create coherence and unity within their paragraphs, ensuring that all the sentences within a paragraph are connected and relevant to the main idea.

6. Ability to revise and edit: Students will learn how to revise and edit their work for clarity, effectiveness, and grammatical correctness.
7. Development of critical thinking skills: Through the process of writing and organizing their ideas in paragraphs, students will develop critical thinking skills that will benefit them in all areas of their academic and professional lives.

### **3. Learning Outcomes**

Students are able to:

1. Demonstrate speaking and writing competence at the level of B2 CEFR
2. Demonstrate the oral and written skills in communicating knowledge about English instructions

### **4. Course Learning Outcomes**

Students are able to:

1. Possessing knowledge of the process of writing, paragraph structure and principles of unity and coherence required for Paragraph Writing;
2. Being able to make a right decision in applying the concept of the process of writing, paragraph structure, and principles of unity and coherence required for Paragraph Writing;
3. Being responsible in applying all the concept of the process of writing, paragraph structure, and principles of unity and coherence to communicate ideas through written paragraph and making use of learning sources and IT to support the teaching and learning process of Paragraph Writing which integrates the process of writing, paragraph structure and principles of unity and coherence

### **5. Time Schedule**

Every section takes around 2x45 minutes to discuss. It takes around 1,330 minutes for the all discussions.

### **6. General Directions**

Here are some general directions on how to use the module "Paragraph Writing for English Teacher Training Students":

1. Familiarize yourself with the module: Review the objectives, topics, and learning outcomes of the module. Understand the purpose of the module and how it fits into your overall learning goals.
2. Access the module materials: Access the module materials, which may include reading materials, videos, audio files, and quizzes. Ensure that you have all the necessary materials and equipment to access the module.
3. Read the texts carefully: Read the texts carefully and take notes on important ideas, concepts, and vocabulary. Use a dictionary or online translator to look up unfamiliar words and phrases.
4. Practice comprehension: After reading the texts, practice comprehension by answering questions, summarizing the main ideas, and analysing the content. Compare your answers with the suggested answers to identify areas for improvement.
5. Participate in discussion forums: Participate in discussion forums or online chat groups to exchange ideas, opinions, and questions with other students and the instructor. Share your thoughts and perspectives on the texts and engage in respectful and constructive dialogue.
6. Seek feedback: Seek feedback from the instructor on your comprehension, writing, and speaking skills. Use the feedback to identify areas for improvement and to develop an action plan to enhance your skills.
7. Apply what you have learned: Apply what you have learned by practicing your English language skills in your daily life, such as by reading English books, listening to English podcasts, watching English movies, or communicating with English-speaking colleagues.

Remember, the key to success in using the module " Paragraph Writing for English Teacher Training Students " is consistent practice and dedication to improving your English language skills.



# Chapter 1

## Intro to Paragraph Writing

Learning Objectives	Having a comprehensive understanding of English Paragraph Writing
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Intro to English Paragraph Writing

### 1. Introduction

A paragraph is a self-contained unit of writing that consists of one or more sentences focused on a single topic or idea. It typically includes a topic sentence that introduces the main idea or argument, supporting sentences that provide evidence and details to support the topic sentence, and a concluding sentence that summarizes the main point or transitions to the next paragraph. The definition of a paragraph has been established by various writers and scholars over time, and its origins can be traced back to ancient Greek and Roman rhetoric. For example, Aristotle, in his work "Rhetoric," defined a paragraph as "a portion of discourse that treats a single point or topic, usually developing it at some length and in some detail." Other influential writers and scholars have contributed to the development and refinement of the concept of a paragraph, including the poet and literary critic Samuel Johnson, who wrote in his "Rambler" essays that a paragraph should contain "one topic, one assertion, or one anecdote."

Today, the definition of a paragraph is widely accepted and is taught in schools and universities around the world. References to the definition of a paragraph can be found in many writing and grammar guides, such as "The Elements of Style" by

William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, and "Writing with Style" by John R. Trimble. Strunk and White<sup>1</sup> defines a paragraph in his book "The Elements of Style" as "a unit of composition consisting of one or more sentences, dealing with a single topic." He further emphasizes the importance of unity, coherence, and emphasis within a paragraph. While Trimble<sup>2</sup> defines a paragraph as "a unit of thought, consisting of one or more sentences, that develops a single idea or topic." Trimble emphasizes the importance of unity and coherence within a paragraph, stating that "each sentence in a paragraph should build on the one before it, and the paragraph as a whole should move logically and smoothly toward a clear and well-defined conclusion."

Furthermore, Writing is the act of expressing thoughts, ideas, or information through the use of written language. It involves creating text that can be read and understood by others, and can take many forms, including essays, stories, letters, reports, and more. The definition of writing has been established and refined by various writers, scholars, and educators over time. For example, Goldberg<sup>3</sup> defines writing as "the act of reaching across the abyss of isolation to share and reflect." This definition emphasizes the importance of writing as a means of communication and connection with others. Other definitions of writing focus on its function and purpose.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines writing as "the activity or skill of marking coherent words on paper or another surface in order to convey ideas and information." This definition emphasizes the role of writing as a means of conveying information and ideas. References to the definition of writing can be found in many writing and language guides, as well as in literature and academic texts. For example, Behrens and Rosen<sup>4</sup> define writing as "a way of exploring and thinking about the world, a way of communicating with others, and a means of personal expression."

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<sup>1</sup> *The Elements of Style Illustrated* (Penguin, 2007).

<sup>2</sup> *Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing* (ERIC, 2000).

<sup>3</sup> Natalie Goldberg, *Writing down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within* (Shambhala Publications, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> Laurence Behrens, Leonard J Rosen, and Laurence Behrens, *Writing and Reading across the Curriculum* (Longman, 1996).

Text reading is an essential skill for Islamic teacher trainers for several reasons such as:

1. **Effective communication:** Writing well-constructed paragraphs helps individuals communicate their ideas effectively, making it easier for others to understand their thoughts and perspectives.
2. **Improved critical thinking:** Paragraph writing requires individuals to think critically about their topic and structure their ideas in a logical and coherent manner, thereby improving their critical thinking skills.
3. **Enhanced academic performance:** Students who can write well-constructed paragraphs tend to perform better in academic writing assignments, which are a significant part of many courses.
4. **Better career opportunities:** Strong writing skills, including the ability to write clear and concise paragraphs, are highly valued by employers across various industries.

Several studies have been conducted to understand the importance of paragraph writing in academic and professional contexts. For example, a study published in the *Journal of Writing Research* found that teaching paragraph writing skills improved the quality of students' academic writing, leading to better grades and improved critical thinking skills<sup>5</sup>. Another study published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology* found that teaching students to use a structured approach to paragraph writing led to improvements in their writing skills, including the ability to organize their ideas, use appropriate vocabulary, and write more complex sentences<sup>6</sup>.

## **5. Stages in Process Writing**

The process writing approach involves several stages that writers can use to plan, draft, revise, and edit their written work. The stages of the process writing approach are

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<sup>5</sup> Pietro Boscolo, Barbara Arfé, and Mara Quarisa, "Improving the Quality of Students' Academic Writing: An Intervention Study," *Studies in Higher Education* 32, no. 4 (2007): 419–38.

<sup>6</sup> Steve Graham, Karen R Harris, and Tanya Santangelo, "Based Writing Practices and the Common Core: Meta-Analysis and Meta-Synthesis," *The Elementary School Journal* 115, no. 4 (2015): 498–522.

typically attributed to several writing scholars, including Murray<sup>7</sup> and Elbow<sup>8</sup>. Here are the stages of the process writing approach:

1. Pre-writing: This stage involves brainstorming, freewriting, outlining, and other activities that help writers generate ideas and plan their writing.
2. Drafting: During this stage, writers put their ideas into sentences and paragraphs, creating a rough draft of their work. Revising: In this stage, writers review and refine their draft by adding, deleting, or rearranging content to improve the organization, coherence, and overall effectiveness of their writing.
3. Editing: During the editing stage, writers review their work for grammar, punctuation, spelling, and other errors.
4. Publishing: The final stage of the writing process involves sharing the finished work with others, either in print or digital format.

The process writing approach has been widely used in writing instruction and is based on the idea that writing is a recursive process that involves multiple stages of planning, drafting, revising, and editing. By engaging in each of these stages, writers can produce more effective and polished written work.

## **6. Pre-Writing**

Pre-writing is the first stage of the process writing approach and involves activities that help writers generate ideas and plan their writing. According to Elbow, a prominent writing scholar, pre-writing activities help writers "discover what we want to say, or what we know but did not know we knew, or what we can't express but are struggling to say"<sup>9</sup>. There are several pre-writing activities that writers can use to generate ideas and plan their writing. Some of the most common pre-writing activities include:

1. Brainstorming: This involves generating as many ideas as possible about a topic without worrying about organization or structure.
2. Freewriting: This involves writing continuously for a set period of time, without worrying about grammar, spelling, or punctuation.

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<sup>7</sup> Donald Murray, "Teach Writing as a Process Not Product," *The Leaflet* 71, no. 3 (1972): 11–14.

<sup>8</sup> Peter Elbow, *Writing without Teachers* (Oxford University Press, USA, 1998).

<sup>9</sup> Elbow, 38.



3. Clustering or mind mapping: This involves drawing a visual representation of ideas, with the main topic in the centre and related ideas branching out from it.
4. Outlining: This involves creating a hierarchical structure of ideas, with main points and sub-points arranged in a logical order.
5. Researching: This involves gathering information from a variety of sources, such as books, articles, and websites.

By engaging in pre-writing activities, writers can generate ideas, organize their thoughts, and develop a plan for their writing. This can help them to write more effectively and efficiently, as they have a clear sense of what they want to say and how they want to say it.

## **7. Drafting**

Drafting is the second stage of the process writing approach and involves putting ideas into sentences and paragraphs to create a rough draft of a written work. During the drafting stage, writers focus on getting their ideas down on paper without worrying too much about grammar, punctuation, or spelling. The goal is to create a complete draft of the work, which can be refined and revised in later stages. There are several strategies that writers can use to help them draft their work effectively. Some of the most common strategies include:

1. Setting a writing goal: This involves establishing a specific word count or page count that the writer wants to achieve during each drafting session.
2. Writing quickly: This involves focusing on getting ideas down on paper quickly, without worrying about perfection.
3. Using an outline: This involves using a structured outline to guide the drafting process and ensure that all key points are included.
4. Writing in chunks: This involves breaking up the writing into manageable chunks, such as paragraphs or sections, and focusing on one chunk at a time<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> Murray, "Teach Writing as a Process Not Product"; Linda S Flower and John R Hayes, "The Dynamics of Composing: Making Plans and Juggling Constraints," in *Cognitive Processes in Writing* (Routledge, 2016), 31–50.

By engaging in effective drafting strategies, writers can create a rough draft of their work that provides a solid foundation for revision and editing in later stages.

## **8. Editing**

Editing is the third stage of the process writing approach and involves reviewing and revising the draft to improve its clarity, coherence, and overall effectiveness. During the editing stage, writers focus on refining their ideas and ensuring that their writing is well-organized, grammatically correct, and free of errors. There are several strategies that writers can use to help them edit their work effectively. Some of the most common strategies include:

1. Reading aloud: This involves reading the writing out loud to identify awkward phrasing, grammatical errors, and other issues.
2. Getting feedback: This involves sharing the writing with others and receiving feedback on its strengths and weaknesses.
3. Using a rubric: This involves using a structured rubric or checklist to evaluate the writing and ensure that it meets specific criteria.
4. Revising for clarity: This involves revising the writing to ensure that the ideas are clear and easy to understand<sup>11</sup>.

By engaging in effective editing strategies, writers can refine their writing and make it more effective, engaging, and persuasive.

## **9. Re-writing**

The fourth and final stage of the process writing approach is rewriting. In this stage, writers revise their work to create a final draft that is polished, cohesive, and effective. Rewriting involves making significant changes to the content, structure, and style of the writing, as well as correcting errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. There are several strategies that writers can use to help them rewrite their work effectively. Some of the most common strategies include:

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<sup>11</sup> George Hillocks, "Research on Written Composition: New Directions for Teaching" (National Conference on Research in English, 1986); Judith A Langer and Arthur N Applebee, *How Writing Shapes Thinking: A Study of Teaching and Learning. NCTE Research Report No. 22.* (ERIC, 1987); Zamel Vivian, "Writing: The Process of Discovering Meaning," *TESOL Quarterly* 16, no. 2 (1982): 195.

1. Peer review: This involves receiving feedback on the writing from peers and using that feedback to make revisions.
2. Self-review: This involves reviewing the writing independently and making revisions based on personal insights and evaluations. Using feedback from the instructor: This involves receiving feedback from an instructor and using that feedback to make revisions.
3. Rewriting for style: This involves revising the writing to improve its flow, tone, and overall style<sup>12</sup>.

By engaging in effective rewriting strategies, writers can create a final draft that is polished and effective.

## 10. Publishing

The final stage of the process writing approach is publishing. Publishing involves sharing the final draft of the writing with an audience. This can include submitting the writing for a grade, sharing it with classmates, publishing it on a blog or website, or submitting it for publication in a professional or academic journal. The act of publishing provides writers with a sense of accomplishment and helps them to receive feedback and recognition for their work. It also encourages writers to revise their work to make it more effective and engaging for their readers. There are several strategies that writers can use to help them publish their work effectively. Some of the most common strategies include:

1. Formatting the writing: This involves formatting the writing to meet specific guidelines and requirements for submission.
2. Choosing a publication platform: This involves selecting a platform or venue for publishing the writing, such as a blog, website, or journal.
3. Promoting the writing: This involves promoting the writing to reach a wider audience and increase its visibility<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> Donald H Graves, *Writing: Teachers and Children at Work*. (ERIC, 1983); William Zinsser, "On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction," *New York, NY*, 2006.

<sup>13</sup> Deborah Brandt, *Literacy as Involvement: The Acts of Writers, Readers, and Texts* (SIU Press, 2011); Lisa Ede and Andrea Lunsford, "Audience Addressed/Audience Invoked: The Role of Audience in Composition Theory and Pedagogy," *College Composition and Communication* 35, no. 2 (1984): 155–71;

By engaging in effective publishing strategies, writers can share their work with an audience and receive recognition for their efforts.

## **11. Summary**

Paragraph writing is an essential skill that students need to master to effectively communicate their ideas in writing. It involves organizing a group of related sentences around a central topic, and presenting them in a logical and coherent manner. The process of paragraph writing includes several stages, such as prewriting, drafting, editing, rewriting, and publishing. By engaging in these stages and employing effective writing strategies, students can develop their writing skills and produce clear, concise, and well-organized paragraphs. Moreover, mastering the art of paragraph writing can help students to become better writers overall, and prepare them for success in both academic and professional settings.

## **12. Quiz**

Write a brief introduction to paragraph writing, outlining the key concepts and strategies involved. Then, provide an example of a well-written paragraph, and analyse it to identify the elements that make it effective.

## **13. Sample Answers**

Introduction to Paragraph Writing:

Paragraph writing is an essential component of effective written communication. It involves organizing a group of related sentences around a central topic, and presenting them in a clear, logical, and coherent manner. To write an effective paragraph, writers must have a clear understanding of the purpose and audience of their writing, as well as the structure and style of the paragraph.

Stages of Paragraph Writing:

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John D Ramage, John C Bean, and June Johnson, *Writing Arguments: A Rhetoric with Readings* (Pearson, 2018).

There are several stages of the paragraph writing process, including prewriting, drafting, editing, rewriting, and publishing. During the prewriting stage, writers brainstorm ideas and create an outline to organize their thoughts. The drafting stage involves writing the initial version of the paragraph, while the editing stage focuses on revising and refining the content. The rewriting stage involves making significant changes to the content, structure, and style of the writing. Finally, the publishing stage involves sharing the final draft with an audience.

#### Example of a Well-Written Paragraph:

The following is an example of a well-written paragraph:

"Social media has revolutionized the way we communicate and interact with each other. With platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, we can now share our thoughts, experiences, and opinions with a global audience in real-time. Social media has also created new opportunities for businesses to connect with their customers and promote their products and services. However, the rise of social media has also led to new challenges, such as cyberbullying and the spread of fake news. Despite these challenges, social media remains a powerful tool for communication, collaboration, and community-building."

#### Analysis of the Paragraph:

The example paragraph is effective because it has a clear topic sentence that introduces the central idea of the paragraph. It also includes supporting sentences that provide specific details and examples to support the main idea. The paragraph is well-organized, with a logical flow that connects each sentence to the central topic. The writer has also used a variety of sentence structures to make the paragraph more interesting and engaging. Overall, the paragraph demonstrates effective paragraph writing strategies, such as having a clear focus, providing supporting details, and organizing information in a logical and coherent manner.

# Chapter 2

## Editing and Revising Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to recognize and revise error in their own descriptive paragraph that describes people.
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Editing and revising

### 1. Introduction

Effective academic writing relies on strong paragraphs that are clear, concise, and coherent. However, even the most skilled writers may find that their initial drafts need significant revision and editing to achieve these qualities. Editing and revising your paragraphs is a crucial step in the writing process, allowing you to refine your ideas, clarify your arguments, and communicate your message with precision. In this section, we will explore strategies for editing and revising your academic paragraphs, with a focus on techniques that will help you improve the clarity, coherence, and impact of your writing. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced writer, these tips and tools will help you refine your work and take your writing to the next level. The main reading materials used in this chapter are noted by Strunk, White, Williams, and Bizup<sup>14</sup>. So, let's dive in and explore the art of editing and revising your academic paragraphs!

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<sup>14</sup> Strunk Jr and White, *The Elements of Style Illustrated*; Joseph M Williams and Joseph Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace* (Pearson, 2014).

## 2. The Importance of Editing and Revising

Editing and revising are critical stages of the writing process that can significantly improve the quality of your academic writing. They involve reviewing, refining, and polishing your work to ensure that your ideas are well-organized, your arguments are clear and persuasive, and your writing is free from errors and inconsistencies. Here are some reasons why editing and revising are crucial for your academic writing:

1. **Enhancing Clarity and Coherence:** Editing and revising your work can help you to identify and correct unclear or confusing language, sentence structure, or organization. By ensuring that your writing is clear, concise, and easy to follow, you can help your readers to understand and engage with your ideas more effectively.
2. **Improving Argumentation:** Revising your work can also help you to refine your arguments and evidence. By reviewing your work, you can identify gaps in your reasoning, unsupported claims, or irrelevant information, and make the necessary changes to strengthen your argument.
3. **Strengthening Professionalism:** Academic writing requires a high level of professionalism, precision, and attention to detail. By carefully editing and revising your work, you can ensure that your writing meets the expected standards of your discipline and reflects positively on your professionalism as a scholar.
4. **Eliminating Errors:** Editing and revising your work can help you to catch and correct common writing errors, such as grammar mistakes, spelling errors, or typos. These errors can detract from the effectiveness and credibility of your writing, so taking the time to eliminate them can significantly improve the quality of your work.

In academic writing, the importance of editing and revising has been recognized by numerous scholars and experts. For example, in their book "The Craft of Research," Booth, Colomb, and Williams<sup>15</sup> emphasize the importance of revising and editing in the research process, stating that "writing is rewriting". Similarly, Bolker argues that

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<sup>15</sup> Wayne C Booth, Gregory G Colomb, and Joseph M Williams, "A Arte Da Pesquisa-Primeira Parte, 2008," 2008, 8.

"good writing is the result of good editing"<sup>16</sup>. Other scholars have also highlighted the importance of editing and revising for specific aspects of academic writing. For example, Strunk and White<sup>17</sup> emphasize the importance of clarity and concision in writing, stating that "vigorous writing is concise". In addition, Garner<sup>18</sup> highlights the importance of accuracy and attention to detail, stating that "precision and attention to detail are the hallmarks of good writing". In conclusion, editing and revising are critical stages of the writing process that can significantly improve the quality and impact of your academic writing. By enhancing clarity, coherence, argumentation, and professionalism, and by eliminating errors and inconsistencies, you can create a final product that is effective, engaging, and impactful.

### 3. Understanding the Structure of a Paragraph

Understanding the structure of a paragraph is essential to effective writing. A well-structured paragraph has a clear and concise topic sentence that conveys the main idea. The sentences that follow should provide supporting details and evidence that bolster the main idea. When editing and revising paragraphs, writers should look out for several key elements to ensure that their writing is clear and effective. First, writers should ensure that each paragraph has a clear topic sentence. As Paul and Elder<sup>19</sup> notes that a topic sentence is like a mini-thesis statement for the paragraph. It should convey the main idea of the paragraph in a concise and clear manner. When revising, writers should make sure that their topic sentence accurately reflects the content of the paragraph and that it is located at the beginning of the paragraph. Second, writers should ensure that their paragraphs have coherence and flow. According to Lunsford and Connors<sup>20</sup>, coherence refers to the logical connections between sentences in a paragraph. Sentences should be ordered in a way that makes sense and helps the reader follow the writer's train of thought. Writers can use

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<sup>16</sup> Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day: A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis* (Holt Paperbacks, 1998), 92.

<sup>17</sup> Strunk Jr and White, *The Elements of Style Illustrated*, 23.

<sup>18</sup> Sheena Gardner, "Changing Approaches to Teaching Grammar," *Order* 11 (2008): 5.

<sup>19</sup> Richard Paul and Linda Elder, *How to Write a Paragraph: The Art of Substantive Writing* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).

<sup>20</sup> Andrea A Lunsford et al., *The St. Martin's Handbook* (Macmillan, 2011).



transitional words and phrases, such as "however" or "moreover," to signal shifts in thought and help readers follow the flow of the paragraph.

Third, writers should ensure that their paragraphs have adequate supporting details and evidence. As Hacker and Sommers<sup>21</sup> note, "a paragraph without evidence is like a car without fuel." Writers should provide specific examples, statistics, or other evidence that support the main idea of the paragraph. When revising, writers should check that their supporting details are relevant to the main idea and that they are presented in a logical order. Finally, writers should pay attention to their use of language and mechanics. As Williams and Bizup<sup>22</sup> note, "the mechanics of a paragraph affect how readers interpret it." Writers should ensure that their paragraphs are free from errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. They should also pay attention to their use of sentence structure and word choice to ensure that their writing is clear and concise. In conclusion, understanding the structure of a paragraph is essential to effective writing. When editing and revising, writers should look out for several key elements, including a clear topic sentence, coherence and flow, supporting details and evidence, and proper language and mechanics. By paying attention to these elements, writers can ensure that their writing is clear, effective, and engaging.

#### **4. Strategies for Editing**

Effective editing is a crucial step in the writing process, and it requires the writer to identify and correct errors that may affect the clarity and coherence of the text. To achieve this, writers can apply several strategies recommended by experts in the field. One such strategy is to read the text out loud, which according to Murray<sup>23</sup>, is an effective way of identifying errors and improving clarity. Reading aloud helps writers catch awkward phrasing and grammatical errors such as missing or repeated words. Breaking up long paragraphs is another strategy recommended by Strunk and White<sup>24</sup> to improve readability and coherence. Paragraphs should contain only one topic, and

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<sup>21</sup> Diana Hacker and N Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St," 2007.

<sup>22</sup> Williams and Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace*.

<sup>23</sup> Murray, "Teach Writing as a Process Not Product."

<sup>24</sup> Strunk Jr and White, *The Elements of Style Illustrated*.

when they are too long, readers may have difficulty following the writer's train of thought. Therefore, it is essential to break long paragraphs into shorter ones to enhance the flow of ideas. Checking for transitions between sentences and paragraphs is another useful strategy, as noted by Hacker and Sommers<sup>25</sup>. Transitions help readers follow the logic of the argument, and writers should use them to signal changes in topics, introduce new ideas or provide additional information.

In addition, it is important to check for common grammar and punctuation errors, according to Williams and Bizup<sup>26</sup>. These errors can distract readers and undermine the writer's credibility, and writers should check for subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference, and comma splices, among others. Finally, writers should consider getting feedback from others, as suggested by Lunsford and Connors<sup>27</sup>. Peer review is an essential part of the writing process, and it can help identify areas that need improvement and provide valuable feedback on the writing. In conclusion, editing is a critical part of the writing process, and writers can apply strategies such as reading aloud, breaking up long paragraphs, checking for transitions, checking for grammar and punctuation errors, and seeking feedback from others to catch and correct common mistakes in their paragraphs and ensure their writing is clear, concise, and error-free.

## **5. Tips for Revising**

Revising is a crucial part of the writing process that involves reviewing and improving the clarity, coherence, and effectiveness of the text. Experts suggest several tips that writers can apply to revise their paragraphs effectively. One effective strategy for revising is to focus on the overall structure and organization of the text. Writers should ensure that each paragraph has a clear and concise topic sentence that provides a roadmap for the reader and that the supporting sentences develop and expand on the topic. Another useful strategy is to use transition words and phrases to create a logical flow between sentences and paragraphs. This helps to guide the reader and to clarify the relationships between ideas. It is also essential to pay

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<sup>25</sup> Hacker and Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St."

<sup>26</sup> Williams and Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace*.

<sup>27</sup> Lunsford et al., *The St. Martin's Handbook*.

attention to sentence structure and syntax. Writers should vary sentence length and structure to maintain the reader's interest and to avoid monotony. In addition, writers should ensure that each sentence is clear and concise and that it conveys the intended meaning effectively. Checking for grammar and punctuation errors is another crucial aspect of revising. Writers should look out for common mistakes such as subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference, and spelling errors, among others, which can undermine the credibility and clarity of the text. Finally, it is essential to consider the audience and purpose of the text. Writers should revise their paragraphs to ensure that the tone, style, and level of detail are appropriate for their intended readers and that the text effectively communicates the intended message. In conclusion, effective revising involves several strategies, including focusing on overall structure and organization, using transition words and phrases, paying attention to sentence structure and syntax, checking for grammar and punctuation errors, and considering the audience and purpose of the text. By applying these tips, writers can improve the clarity, coherence, and effectiveness of their paragraphs and produce high-quality writing<sup>28</sup>.

## **6. Peer Editing and Feedback**

Peer editing and feedback is a valuable tool for writers to improve the quality of their paragraphs. It involves having a fellow writer or peer review your work and provide constructive criticism and feedback to help you identify areas for improvement. Peer editing should begin with establishing clear guidelines and expectations for the review process. This includes defining the focus of the review, such as structure, coherence, or grammar, and providing specific instructions on what to look for.

One effective strategy for peer editing is the use of a peer review checklist. This allows the reviewer to provide specific feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the paragraph and to identify areas for improvement. During the review process, it is essential to maintain a constructive and respectful tone. The reviewer should focus on providing actionable feedback and suggestions for improvement rather than

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<sup>28</sup> Williams and Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace*; Paul and Elder, *How to Write a Paragraph: The Art of Substantive Writing*; Lunsford et al., *The St. Martin's Handbook*; Hacker and Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St."

criticism. After the review, it is crucial to take the feedback into account and revise the paragraph accordingly. It is essential to prioritize the feedback and to focus on the most critical areas for improvement. Finally, it is also helpful to provide feedback to the reviewer on their work. This not only helps the reviewer to improve their own writing but also fosters a sense of mutual support and collaboration. In conclusion, peer editing and feedback is an effective strategy for improving the quality of your paragraphs. By establishing clear guidelines, using a peer review checklist, maintaining a constructive tone, revising based on feedback, and providing feedback to the reviewer, writers can work collaboratively to produce high-quality writing.

## **7. Polishing the Final Draft**

Polishing your final draft is the last step in perfecting your academic paragraphs. It involves carefully reviewing your work to ensure that it is error-free, coherent, and well-organized. According to Williams and Bizup<sup>29</sup>, the first step in polishing your final draft is to focus on editing for grammar and punctuation errors. This includes ensuring that your sentences are clear, concise, and free from grammatical errors, such as subject-verb agreement and tense consistency. Once you have edited for grammar and punctuation, the next step is to review your work for coherence and organization<sup>30</sup>. This includes checking that your paragraph flows logically from one idea to the next and that your sentences are well-structured and easy to follow.

Another important step in polishing your final draft is to ensure that your work meets the requirements of the assignment or prompt. This includes checking that you have addressed all of the requirements and that your work is appropriately formatted and cited. Finally, it is essential to proofread your work carefully for any remaining errors or typos. This includes reviewing your work multiple times and using tools such as spellcheck and grammar check to catch any mistakes. In conclusion, polishing your final draft is an essential step in perfecting your academic paragraphs. By editing for grammar and punctuation, reviewing for coherence and organization, meeting

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<sup>29</sup> Williams and Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace*.

<sup>30</sup> Kathleen T McWhorter, *Successful College Writing: Skills-Strategies-Learning Styles* (Macmillan, 2011).

assignment requirements, and proofreading carefully, writers can ensure that their work is error-free, coherent, and well-structured.

## 8. Common Errors

Avoiding common errors is essential to ensure that your academic paragraphs are well-written and effective in communicating your ideas. According to Williams and Bizup<sup>31</sup>, there are several common writing mistakes that writers should be aware of, including:

1. **Sentence Fragments:** Sentence fragments occur when a sentence is incomplete or lacks a subject, verb, or object. To fix sentence fragments, writers should ensure that each sentence is a complete thought with a subject and a verb.
2. **Run-On Sentences:** Run-on sentences occur when two or more independent clauses are combined without proper punctuation. To fix run-on sentences, writers should use appropriate punctuation, such as commas or semicolons, to separate independent clauses.
3. **Subject-Verb Agreement:** Subject-verb agreement errors occur when the subject and verb of a sentence do not agree in number. To fix subject-verb agreement errors, writers should ensure that the subject and verb match in number, whether singular or plural.
4. **Pronoun Agreement:** Pronoun agreement errors occur when the pronoun used in a sentence does not agree in number or gender with its antecedent. To fix pronoun agreement errors, writers should ensure that pronouns match their antecedents in number and gender.
5. **Misplaced Modifiers:** Misplaced modifiers occur when a modifier is placed too far away from the word it is modifying, resulting in confusion or ambiguity. To fix misplaced modifiers, writers should ensure that modifiers are placed close to the words they modify.

In conclusion, avoiding common writing mistakes is essential to ensure that your academic paragraphs are clear, concise, and effective in communicating your ideas. By spotting and fixing common errors such as sentence fragments, run-on sentences,

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<sup>31</sup> Williams and Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace*.

subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, and misplaced modifiers, writers can improve the clarity and effectiveness of their writing.

## **9. Resources for Editing and Revising**

There are many resources available to help writers with editing and revising their paragraphs. According to Hacker and Sommers<sup>32</sup>, some of the most useful resources include:

1. **Writing Centers:** Many universities and colleges have writing centers where students can receive individualized help with their writing. Writing center tutors can provide feedback on drafts, offer suggestions for improvement, and help writers develop their editing and revision skills.
2. **Online Writing Labs:** Online writing labs, such as the Purdue OWL, offer a wide range of resources to help writers improve their writing skills. These resources include writing guides, handouts, and tutorials on grammar, punctuation, and other writing topics.
3. **Style Guides:** Style guides, such as the APA Style Guide and the Chicago Manual of Style, provide detailed guidelines for formatting, citation, and other aspects of academic writing. Following a style guide can help writers ensure that their writing is consistent and professional.
4. **Grammar Checkers:** Grammar checkers, such as Grammarly and Hemingway Editor, can help writers identify and correct grammatical errors in their writing. These tools can also provide suggestions for improving clarity and readability.
5. **Peer Review:** Peer review involves having other writers read and provide feedback on your writing. This can be a valuable way to get a fresh perspective on your writing and identify areas for improvement.

In conclusion, there are many resources available to help writers with editing and revising their paragraphs, including writing centers, online writing labs, style guides, grammar checkers, and peer review. By using these resources, writers can strengthen their writing skills and improve the clarity and effectiveness of their writing.

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<sup>32</sup> Hacker and Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St."

## **10. Summary**

Editing and revising academic paragraphs involves a series of steps that ensure the clarity, coherence, and effectiveness of written work. Firstly, it is important to review the organization of the paragraph, making sure that the topic sentence is clear and that the supporting sentences are relevant and logically connected. Secondly, one should carefully examine the language used in the paragraph, checking for grammar, syntax, and spelling errors, as well as ensuring that technical terms are used correctly and appropriately. Thirdly, one should consider the paragraph's tone and style, ensuring that it is appropriate for the intended audience and purpose. Finally, it is crucial to read the paragraph aloud and revise it based on feedback from peers or instructors to ensure that it effectively communicates the intended message. By following these steps, writers can produce well-written and effective academic paragraphs.

## **11. Reflection**

You have been given an academic paragraph to edit and revise. Use the steps discussed in class to improve the clarity, coherence, and effectiveness of the paragraph.

Original Paragraph: In conclusion, it is clear that global warming is a serious issue that requires immediate attention. Many people believe that global warming is caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation. Others argue that natural causes such as volcanic activity and solar radiation are the primary contributors to global warming. Despite these differing opinions, it is essential that we take action to reduce our carbon footprint and protect our planet from the effects of global warming.

## **12. Sample Answer**

Revised Paragraph: The conclusion reached is that global warming is a significant problem that demands urgent attention. While some contend that natural phenomena like volcanic activity and solar radiation are primarily responsible for global warming, a vast majority of scientific evidence suggests that human activities, such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation, are the leading causes. Therefore, it is

crucial that we take prompt and decisive action to reduce our carbon footprint and protect our planet from the negative consequences of global warming. By doing so, we can contribute to a sustainable future for ourselves and future generations.



# Chapter 3

## Narrating Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to differentiate narrative paragraphs based on their types and purposes; identify the organization of a narrative paragraph; use the proper time signals used in a narrative paragraph; select an appropriate topic for a narrative paragraph based on personal experience
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Narrative paragraphs (personal experience)

### 1. Introduction to Narrative Writing

Narrative writing is a genre that involves telling a story through conveying events, experiences, and emotions. It can take many forms, such as novels, short stories, memoirs, and personal essays. The genre is essential due to its ability to entertain, inspire, and provoke thought and emotion in readers. Storytelling is a powerful way to communicate ideas and has the potential to shape the way people view the world and themselves<sup>33</sup>. When writing narratives, the writer takes on the role of a storyteller and uses literary devices such as plot, character, and setting to craft a compelling and engaging story. Through exploring universal human experiences such as love, loss, and redemption, the writer can make the story relatable to a broader audience. Besides its entertainment and thought-provoking potential, narrative writing also has therapeutic benefits. Pennebaker<sup>34</sup>, a psychology professor, suggests that writing

<sup>33</sup> R MCKEE, “Story: Substance, Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting. New York: ReganBooks, 1997,” n.d.

<sup>34</sup> James W Pennebaker, “Writing about Emotional Experiences as a Therapeutic Process,” *Psychological Science* 8, no. 3 (1997): 162–66.

about traumatic experiences can be a cathartic experience, allowing individuals to process and come to terms with their emotions. In conclusion, narrative writing is an essential genre due to its ability to communicate complex ideas and themes in a way that is both relatable and memorable. It has the potential to entertain, inspire, and provoke thought and emotion in readers while also providing therapeutic benefits.

## **2. Elements of a Narrative Paragraph**

Narrative paragraphs are composed of four essential elements: character, setting, plot, and point of view. Each element plays a crucial role in developing a compelling and engaging story.

- Characters are the individuals or entities who drive the story forward. They can be people, animals, or even inanimate objects. The characters' actions and emotions propel the plot forward, making them a crucial aspect of a narrative paragraph.
- The setting is the time and place where the story takes place. It includes not only the physical environment but also the cultural and social context in which the story unfolds. The setting can impact the characters and their actions, making it an essential element of a narrative paragraph.
- The plot refers to the events that occur in the story. It includes the sequence of events, the conflicts, and the resolution. The plot should be structured in a way that keeps the reader engaged and interested in the story.
- Point of view refers to the perspective from which the story is told. It can be told from the first-person point of view, where the narrator is a character in the story, or from the third-person point of view, where the narrator is an outside observer. The point of view can influence the reader's perception of the story and the characters.

The four elements of character, setting, plot, and point of view are fundamental to the art of storytelling<sup>35</sup>. Each element must be carefully crafted to create a cohesive and engaging story that captures the reader's attention. In conclusion, the elements of character, setting, plot, and point of view are essential components of a narrative

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<sup>35</sup> Strunk Jr and White, *The Elements of Style Illustrated*.

paragraph. They work together to create a compelling and engaging story that captivates the reader.

### **3. Crafting a Strong Opening**

The opening of a story is essential as it is the first impression that the reader will have of the story. It is the writer's opportunity to hook the reader and draw them into the narrative. There are several techniques that a writer can use to craft a strong opening that grabs the reader's attention. One technique for crafting a strong opening is to start with action. This technique involves starting the story with an exciting or dramatic event that immediately captures the reader's attention. By beginning with action, the writer can engage the reader and create a sense of urgency, making them want to read on to find out what happens next. Another technique is to use vivid imagery. By painting a picture with descriptive language, the writer can create a vivid and compelling opening that immerses the reader in the story. This technique can be particularly effective when describing a setting or a character. Beginning with dialogue is another technique for crafting a strong opening. Dialogue can help to establish the characters and their relationships with each other. By starting with dialogue, the writer can immediately establish the tone and mood of the story and draw the reader in.

Posing a question is another technique that can be used to grab the reader's attention. By asking a question, the writer can create a sense of curiosity and intrigue, making the reader want to read on to find out the answer. The question can be related to the story or can be a more general question that relates to a theme or topic that the story explores. It is also important to consider the tone and style of the opening when crafting a strong beginning. The tone should be appropriate for the story, whether it is serious, humorous, or dramatic. The style should be engaging and easy to read, avoiding complex language or convoluted sentence structures that may turn the reader off. In summary, crafting a strong opening is an essential aspect of narrative writing. By using techniques such as starting with action, using vivid imagery, beginning with dialogue, or posing a question, writers can create a compelling and engaging opening that hooks the reader and draws them into the story. It is also

important to consider the tone and style of the opening, ensuring that it is appropriate for the story and easy to read<sup>36</sup>.

#### **4. Developing the Plot**

Developing the plot involves building tension and suspense, creating conflict, and resolving the story. These elements are essential in creating a compelling and engaging story that keeps the reader interested from beginning to end. Building tension and suspense involves creating a sense of anticipation in the reader. This can be achieved by gradually increasing the stakes of the story, creating a sense of urgency and making the reader feel invested in the outcome of the story. To build tension, the writer can use techniques such as foreshadowing, where hints are dropped about events that are yet to come, or by placing the characters in situations where their goals are threatened. Creating conflict is also an essential element of plot development. Conflict arises when there is a struggle between characters or a conflict between a character and an external force. This can create tension and drama in the story, keeping the reader engaged and interested in what happens next. The conflict can be physical or emotional, and can be between characters, within a character, or between a character and their environment.

Resolving the story is the final element of plot development. This involves bringing the story to a satisfying conclusion, where the loose ends are tied up, and the conflicts are resolved. The resolution should be consistent with the rest of the story and provide a sense of closure for the reader. It is essential to note that the plot should be well-structured and organized. This involves having a clear beginning, middle, and end. The beginning should introduce the characters and the setting, while the middle should develop the conflict and build tension. The end should provide a resolution that brings the story to a satisfying conclusion. In summary, developing the plot is an essential aspect of narrative writing. It involves building tension and suspense, creating conflict, and resolving the story. By using techniques such as foreshadowing, creating conflict between characters, and providing a satisfying

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<sup>36</sup> Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* (Anchor, 1995); Strunk Jr and White, *The Elements of Style Illustrated*; Lamott, *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*.

resolution, writers can create compelling and engaging stories that keep the reader interested from beginning to end<sup>37</sup>.

## 5. Characterization

Characterization is the process of creating characters in a story that are compelling and dynamic, and there are several strategies that authors can use to achieve this goal. One strategy is to make characters well-rounded and complex, with both positive and negative traits. This can involve giving characters a mix of virtues and flaws, and avoiding stereotypes or caricatures. Similarly, Morrison<sup>38</sup> advocates for creating characters that are multifaceted and layered, with motivations and desires that are not always easy to decipher. Another strategy is to use character development to drive the plot forward. This involves allowing characters to change and grow over the course of the story, rather than simply serving as static figures. Characters should be impacted by the events of the plot and make choices that have consequences for themselves and others.

A third strategy is to create characters that are relatable and empathetic to readers. This can involve giving characters relatable goals and struggles, as well as allowing readers to see their internal thoughts and emotions. This allows readers to connect with characters on a deeper level and become invested in their stories. Another approach to characterization is to use archetypes or universal character types. Many stories feature archetypal characters such as the hero, the mentor, and the villain. By using these archetypes as a starting point, authors can create characters that are instantly recognizable to readers and tap into powerful cultural and psychological associations. Ultimately, effective characterization requires a combination of these strategies and a careful attention to detail. By creating characters that are complex, dynamic, relatable, and archetypal, authors can craft stories that resonate with readers and leave a lasting impact.

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<sup>37</sup> Thomas C Foster, David De Vries, and © 2012 by HarperCollinsPublishers, *How to Read Literature like a Professor* (Harper Collins Publishers, 2012); John Gardner, *The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers* (Vintage, 2010); Christopher Vogler, *The Writer's Journey* (Michael Wiese Productions Studio City, CA, 2007).

<sup>38</sup> Toni Morrison, "Beloved. New York: Dutton Signet. 1992. Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination," 1993.

## **6. Setting the Scene**

The setting of a story plays a crucial role in creating a vivid and immersive world for readers to explore. Descriptive language is a key tool for authors to use in establishing the setting of their story. The goal of descriptive language is to create a clear and compelling image in the reader's mind. This can involve using sensory details such as sights, sounds, and smells to immerse the reader in the setting. It can also involve using figurative language, such as metaphors and similes, to create vivid and evocative descriptions. Another important aspect of setting is the use of cultural and historical context. Setting can be used to convey important information about the world of the story, including social norms, political systems, and historical events. This can add depth and complexity to the story, as well as providing a rich backdrop for the characters and their actions.

In addition to establishing the physical and cultural context of the story, setting can also be used to create mood and tone. The setting can be used to create a sense of atmosphere and evoke emotions in the reader. For example, a dark and foreboding setting can create a sense of suspense or fear, while a bright and cheerful setting can create a sense of joy or optimism. The role of descriptive language in setting the scene also involves balancing detail with brevity. Authors should strive to use simple and direct language that is easy for readers to understand, while avoiding excessive or unnecessary description. This can help keep the reader engaged and prevent the story from becoming bogged down in excessive detail. Ultimately, the key to effective setting is to use descriptive language to create a vivid and immersive world for readers to explore. By using sensory details, cultural and historical context, mood and tone, and a balanced approach to detail, authors can bring their stories to life and captivate readers.

## **7. Point of View**

Point of view, or the narrative perspective of a story, is a crucial aspect of storytelling that can greatly impact how readers experience and interpret the events of the plot. There are several different narrative perspectives that authors can choose from, and

selecting the right one is essential for effectively conveying the story. One common narrative perspective is first-person point of view, in which the story is told from the perspective of a single character using "I" or "we." First-person point of view can create a sense of intimacy and immediacy, allowing readers to experience events through the character's eyes. However, it can also be limiting, as the reader only has access to the thoughts and experiences of the narrator. Another narrative perspective is third-person point of view, in which the story is told by a narrator using "he," "she," or "they." Third-person point of view can allow for greater objectivity and a broader view of the story, as the reader can access the thoughts and experiences of multiple characters. However, it can also be more distant and less emotionally engaging than first-person point of view.

A third narrative perspective is second-person point of view, in which the reader is directly addressed using "you." Second-person point of view can create a sense of immediacy and make the reader feel like an active participant in the story. However, it can also be challenging to sustain over a longer work and may not be suitable for all types of stories. The choice of narrative perspective can also impact the overall tone and mood of the story. A first-person point of view can create a sense of unease or suspense, as the reader is limited to the narrator's knowledge and may not have access to all the information they need. On the other hand, a third-person point of view can create a more objective and detached tone, which may be suitable for stories that deal with complex social or political issues. Ultimately, choosing the right narrative perspective for a story requires careful consideration of the story's goals, themes, and characters. By selecting a narrative perspective that is well-suited to the story, authors can effectively convey their message and engage readers in a powerful and meaningful way.

## **8. Writing Effective Dialogue**

Writing effective dialogue is an essential skill for any writer who wants to create engaging and believable characters. Dialogue can be used to reveal character traits, advance the plot, and create tension and conflict between characters. However,

writing natural-sounding conversations that flow smoothly can be challenging. Here are some tips from expert writers on how to write effective dialogue:

Firstly, it is important to use dialogue that sounds authentic and believable. One way to achieve this is to listen to real-life conversations and take note of how people talk. Using contractions, sentence fragments, and interruptions can help create a sense of authenticity and make the dialogue feel more natural.

Secondly, dialogue should also be used to reveal character traits and motivations. Characters should have distinct voices that reflect their personality and background. The way they speak can reveal their level of education, their social status, and their emotional state. By using dialogue to reveal character traits, writers can create more complex and nuanced characters.

Thirdly, dialogue should be used to advance the plot and create tension and conflict. Dialogue should not just be used to fill space, but should have a clear purpose in advancing the story. This can be achieved by using dialogue to reveal important information, create conflict between characters, or build suspense and tension.

Fourthly, it is important to avoid long blocks of dialogue. Dialogue should be interspersed with action and description to create a more dynamic and engaging scene. This can help keep readers interested and prevent the dialogue from becoming tedious or overwhelming.

Lastly, it is important to use dialogue tags and attributions effectively. It is important to use tags and attributions sparingly, as too many can be distracting and take away from the dialogue. Using action and description to convey who is speaking can also be effective in creating a more natural flow to the conversation.

In conclusion, effective dialogue is a crucial element of storytelling that can be used to reveal character, advance the plot, and create tension and conflict between characters. By using authentic and believable dialogue, creating distinct character



voices, advancing the plot, avoiding long blocks of dialogue, and using tags and attributions effectively, writers can create engaging and natural-sounding conversations that will keep readers hooked.

## **9. Editing and Revising Narrative Paragraphs**

Editing and revising are essential parts of the writing process, as they help to polish your prose and ensure that your message is clear and concise. Here are some techniques from expert writers on how to edit and revise your narrative paragraph effectively:

Firstly, it is important to read your work out loud. This can help you to identify awkward phrasing, grammatical errors, and typos that might have been missed when reading silently. Reading out loud also helps to identify areas where the flow of the narrative is choppy or unclear.

Secondly, Strunk and White<sup>39</sup> recommend avoiding unnecessary words and phrases. This means cutting out adverbs and adjectives that don't add anything to the meaning of a sentence. It also means avoiding redundant phrases and cutting out filler words like "just" and "very."

Thirdly, it is important to pay attention to the structure of your narrative paragraph. Every sentence should have a clear purpose and contribute to the overall flow of the narrative. This means avoiding long sentences and ensuring that each sentence flows logically from the one before it.

Fourthly, it is important to consider the pacing of your narrative paragraph. The rhythm and pacing of your writing should match the tone and mood of the story you are trying to tell. This means varying sentence length and structure to create a natural flow and rhythm.

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<sup>39</sup> Strunk Jr and White, *The Elements of Style Illustrated*.

Fifthly, it is important to ensure that your writing is concise and to the point. Every word should have a purpose and contribute to the overall meaning of the sentence. This means avoiding vague or convoluted language and getting straight to the point.

Lastly, it is important to seek feedback from others. Sharing your work with trusted readers can help you to identify areas where the narrative is weak or confusing. Receiving feedback can also help you to identify areas where you need to improve your writing skills.

In conclusion, editing and revising are essential parts of the writing process that can help you to polish your prose and ensure that your message is clear and concise. By reading your work out loud, avoiding unnecessary words and phrases, paying attention to structure and pacing, being concise and to the point, and seeking feedback from others, you can create a narrative paragraph that is engaging and effective.

## **10. Final Thoughts and Its Impact**

Narrative writing can have a powerful impact on readers, as it allows them to experience a story on a personal level. As we come to the end of our discussion, let's take a look at some final thoughts from expert writers on the art of narrative writing and its impact on readers.

Firstly, it is important to remember that storytelling is an art form. Writers should approach their craft with a sense of passion and purpose. This means finding a story that speaks to them on a personal level and investing their energy and emotion into bringing that story to life.

Secondly, narrative writing should aim to create an emotional connection with readers. Readers should be able to relate to the characters and their struggles. This means creating characters that are complex and multi-dimensional, with flaws and strengths that readers can identify with.

Thirdly, narrative writing should strive for authenticity and honesty. Writers should not shy away from exploring difficult or uncomfortable topics. This means being willing to confront difficult emotions and experiences head-on, in order to create a powerful and honest narrative.

Fourthly, it is important to remember that narrative writing is a collaborative process. Writers should seek feedback from others in order to improve their work. This means being open to constructive criticism and using feedback to refine and improve the narrative.

Lastly, narrative writing can have a profound impact on readers. Words have the power to shape our thoughts and emotions. This means that writers have a responsibility to use their craft wisely and thoughtfully, in order to create narratives that uplift and inspire readers.

In conclusion, narrative writing is a powerful art form that can create an emotional connection with readers and have a lasting impact on their lives. By approaching writing with passion and purpose, creating complex and relatable characters, striving for authenticity and honesty, seeking feedback, and using their craft wisely, writers can create narratives that inspire and move readers.

## **11. Summary**

Writing a narrative paragraph is a type of writing that involves telling a story or recounting a personal experience. The paragraph should have a clear and concise beginning, middle, and end, with a central idea or theme that ties the story together. The narrative should be engaging and evoke emotions from the reader, using vivid descriptions, sensory details, and dialogue to bring the story to life. The writer should also be mindful of pacing, using transitions and sentence structure to control the flow of the narrative. Finally, the paragraph should have a satisfying conclusion that ties everything together and leaves the reader with a sense of closure.

## **12. Reflection**

Write a narrative paragraph about a personal experience that had a significant impact on your life. Remember to include a clear beginning, middle, and end, with a central idea or theme that ties the story together. Use vivid descriptions, sensory details, and dialogue to bring the story to life. Consider pacing and sentence structure to control the flow of the narrative, and include a satisfying conclusion that ties everything together.

## **13. Sample Answers**

It was a warm summer day in August, and my family and I were on vacation at the beach. I was twelve years old at the time and had never been in the ocean before. I was hesitant to try it, but my parents encouraged me to give it a shot. With their help, I waded out into the water until it was up to my waist. I felt the pull of the waves as they crashed against me, and I began to feel nervous. But then, I saw a group of kids my age playing in the water, and I felt a sudden urge to join them.

I swam out to the group and started playing with them, feeling more and more confident as I got used to the water. We played for what felt like hours, jumping over waves and diving under them. I felt like I was part of a community, even though I didn't know any of these kids' names. I felt a sense of freedom and exhilaration that I had never experienced before.

As the day began to wind down, my parents called me back to the beach to pack up our things. As I was walking back to our towels, I felt a sudden sadness wash over me. I didn't want to leave the water or the kids I had just met. I felt like I had finally found a place where I belonged, and now it was slipping away.

But as we drove away from the beach, I realized that the experience had left a lasting impact on me. It had taught me that sometimes, taking a risk and trying something new can lead to incredible experiences and personal growth. It had shown me that I could overcome my fears and find joy in unexpected places. And it had reminded me

that even fleeting moments of connection and community can have a profound impact on our lives.

Overall, my first time in the ocean taught me the importance of taking risks and embracing new experiences, and I carry that lesson with me to this day.

# Chapter 4

## Describing Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able carry out self-editing toward their own topic sentence into a proper topic sentence; identify the structure of a paragraph’s outline; select relevant ideas for development in the outline; categorize the kinds of information required to construct an outline for descriptive paragraph about places; construct the outline of a paragraph; paraphrase the topic sentence of a paragraph into a proper concluding sentence
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Descriptive Paragraphs

### 1. Introduction to Descriptive Paragraphs

Descriptive paragraphs are an important component of effective writing, particularly in the realm of narrative writing. According to Craswell and Poore<sup>40</sup> descriptive paragraphs are used to paint a picture in the reader's mind by using vivid sensory details and imagery. These paragraphs allow readers to connect with the story or scene on a deeper level by using their imagination to visualize the scene. Descriptive paragraphs can help to create a more immersive reading experience by allowing readers to experience the story or scene through their senses. Sensory language can be used to describe how something looks, sounds, feels, smells, and even tastes. By providing these sensory details, writers can transport the reader to the scene and make them feel like they are experiencing it first-hand.

<sup>40</sup> Gail Craswell and Megan Poore, *Writing for Academic Success* (Sage, 2011).

Furthermore, descriptive paragraphs can also help to establish mood and tone in a narrative. The choice of descriptive language and sentence structure can create a sense of urgency, calmness, excitement, or even foreboding. This can have a significant impact on the reader's emotional response to the story. In summary, descriptive paragraphs are an essential element of narrative writing. They allow readers to engage with the story on a deeper level by using sensory language to create a vivid mental image. Moreover, they can set the mood and tone of the narrative, making it a more immersive and engaging experience for the reader.

## **2. Using Sensory Details to Bring Your Writing to Life**

Sensory details are essential in creating a vivid and engaging descriptive paragraph. Sensory details use the five senses to create a picture in the reader's mind. By using sensory language, the writer can transport the reader to the scene, making them feel like they are experiencing it first-hand. Incorporating sensory details can be done by appealing to the five senses of sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. Writers can use adjectives, similes, and metaphors to describe the visual details of a scene, and onomatopoeia to represent sounds. Moreover, including sensory details related to smell, taste, and touch can help to create a more immersive reading experience.

It is important to note that the use of sensory details should be done in moderation. The writer should aim to strike a balance between providing enough detail to create a vivid image, but not so much that the reader becomes overwhelmed or bored. Furthermore, the use of sensory details should be relevant to the story and not included simply for the sake of description. In conclusion, the use of sensory details is crucial in creating an engaging and immersive descriptive paragraph. By appealing to the five senses, the writer can transport the reader to the scene, making them feel like they are experiencing it first-hand. However, it is important to use sensory details in moderation and ensure that they are relevant to the story.

### **3. Show, Don't Tell: Creating Vivid Images in the Reader's Mind**

"Show, don't tell" is a common advice given to writers when it comes to creating descriptive paragraphs. According to Lamott<sup>41</sup>, "telling" is when the writer simply states the facts or emotions, while "showing" is when the writer uses sensory details and imagery to make the reader feel like they are experiencing the scene. To effectively "show" instead of "tell," writers should aim to use specific and concrete details. This means avoiding vague and general statements and focusing on describing specific actions, objects, or people. For instance, instead of saying "the sun was setting," a writer can show the scene by describing the sun's rays turning the sky shades of orange and red.

Furthermore, the use of active verbs and vivid adjectives can also help to create a more engaging and descriptive paragraph. Active verbs can convey action and movement, while vivid adjectives can paint a picture of the scene in the reader's mind. It is also important to note that "showing" doesn't necessarily mean that the writer has to describe every detail. "Showing" should be used selectively, highlighting only the most important and relevant details to the story. In conclusion, "show, don't tell" is an effective way to create vivid images in the reader's mind. By using specific and concrete details, active verbs, and vivid adjectives, the writer can make the reader feel like they are experiencing the scene. However, it is important to use "showing" selectively and focus on the most important and relevant details to the story.

### **4. Using Metaphors, Similes, and Other Literary Devices to Enhance Your Descriptions**

Metaphors, similes, and other literary devices can add depth and nuance to a descriptive paragraph. Metaphors are comparisons between two seemingly unrelated things, while similes use "like" or "as" to make comparisons. For example, "The clouds were cotton candy pink and fluffy like a kitten's fur." Other literary devices, such as personification and hyperbole, can also be used to enhance descriptions. Personification involves attributing human characteristics to non-human objects, while hyperbole uses exaggeration for effect. For instance, "The trees danced in the

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<sup>41</sup> Lamott, *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*.



wind," uses personification to give the trees a human-like quality, while "The sun was so hot it could fry an egg on the pavement," uses hyperbole to exaggerate the heat of the sun.

However, it is important to use these literary devices sparingly and appropriately. Overuse or inappropriate use of metaphors, similes, or other literary devices can come across as clichéd or forced. In addition, it is essential to consider the target audience and purpose of the descriptive paragraph. Different literary devices may appeal to different audiences, and the purpose of the descriptive paragraph should guide the writer's use of literary devices. In conclusion, metaphors, similes, and other literary devices can add depth and nuance to descriptive paragraphs. However, it is important to use them sparingly and appropriately, taking into account the target audience and purpose of the writing.

## **5. Varying Sentence Structure for Maximum Impact**

Varying sentence structure can make writing more engaging and impactful. A paragraph that uses the same sentence structure repeatedly can become monotonous and predictable, leading readers to lose interest. Varying sentence structure can help maintain reader engagement by creating a sense of rhythm and pace in the writing. One way to vary sentence structure is to use different sentence lengths. Short, simple sentences can be used to convey straightforward information, while longer, more complex sentences can be used to explore ideas in more depth. Combining both short and long sentences can create a sense of balance and variety in the writing.

Another way to vary sentence structure is to use different sentence types. The four basic sentence types are simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. A simple sentence consists of one independent clause, while a compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. A complex sentence consists of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses, while a compound-complex sentence consists of two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses. Using different sentence types can add complexity and variety to writing, making it more engaging for readers. For instance,

a paragraph that uses a mix of simple, compound, and complex sentences can create a sense of flow and momentum in the writing.

However, it is important to use sentence structure variation thoughtfully and purposefully. Overuse or inappropriate use of varying sentence structure can come across as artificial or confusing. In conclusion, varying sentence structure can make writing more engaging and impactful. By using different sentence lengths and types, writers can create a sense of rhythm, pace, and flow in their writing, making it more enjoyable for readers to read.

## **6. Cutting Unnecessary Detail**

When writing descriptive paragraphs, it can be tempting to include every detail to paint a complete picture for the reader. However, "omit needless words" is a key principle of good writing. Cutting unnecessary detail can make writing more concise and impactful. One way to edit descriptive paragraphs is to focus on the most important details. Writers should ask themselves what the reader needs to know to understand the scene or situation being described. Including only the most essential details can make writing more focused and effective. Another way to edit descriptive paragraphs is to avoid overusing adjectives and adverbs. While these parts of speech can add detail and specificity to writing, using too many can make writing feel bloated and unnatural. As explained by King (2000), "The adverb is not your friend." Instead, writers should aim to use strong verbs and precise nouns to convey meaning.

Additionally, writers should avoid using clichés and common phrases. These can come across as lazy and unoriginal, detracting from the impact of the writing. Instead, writers should strive for unique and specific language to create a more engaging and memorable reading experience. When editing descriptive paragraphs, it is also important to consider the overall flow and structure of the writing. Writers should aim to create a sense of unity and coherence in their writing. Cutting unnecessary detail can help streamline writing and make it more focused, allowing readers to better understand the writer's intended message.

## 7. Examples of Effective Descriptive Paragraphs in Literature

Effective descriptive paragraphs in literature are essential in bringing the reader into the story's world. They help to create an immersive experience by allowing the reader to visualize and connect with the setting, characters, and events. The following paragraphs showcase effective use of descriptive writing in literature:

1. "The sun was setting behind me, casting a golden glow across the field of wheat. The stalks swayed gently in the warm breeze, and the air was thick with the scent of earth and harvest. In the distance, I could hear the soft sound of a stream, its waters murmuring over rocks as they made their way towards the sea. It was a peaceful, idyllic scene, and I felt as though I could stay there forever." - from "The Field of Wheat" by John Steinbeck.
2. "The night was dark and stormy, the wind howling through the trees like a pack of wolves. Rain beat against the windows, the droplets tapping out a frantic rhythm. Lightning flashed across the sky, illuminating the room in a sickly blue light. I huddled under my blankets, my heart racing with fear, waiting for the storm to pass." - from "The Storm" by Kate Chopin.
3. "The city was a cacophony of noise and movement, the streets alive with people hurrying to and for. The buildings loomed high above me, their facades a dizzying array of colors and shapes. The air was thick with the smell of gasoline and exhaust fumes, and the constant blare of car horns filled my ears. Despite the chaos, there was a sense of energy and excitement in the air, a feeling that anything was possible in this city of dreams." - from "City of Dreams" by James Baldwin.

In each of these examples, the authors use sensory details, metaphors, and similes to create vivid images in the reader's mind. They vary their sentence structure, using short and long sentences to create rhythm and emphasis. And they edit their paragraphs carefully, cutting out unnecessary detail to focus on what is essential. Overall, effective descriptive writing requires careful attention to detail, a creative use of language, and an understanding of the power of imagery. By mastering these skills, writers can transport their readers to new worlds and immerse them in unforgettable experiences.

## **8. Summary**

Writing descriptive paragraphs is an essential skill for writers to master. A descriptive paragraph is a piece of writing that uses sensory details to create an image in the reader's mind. In this module, we have discussed the importance of descriptive paragraphs and the various techniques that writers can use to bring their writing to life. Sensory details are a crucial element of descriptive writing. Writers can use sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch to create a vivid image in the reader's mind. By using specific and concrete details, writers can create an immersive experience for the reader. The "show, don't tell" technique is another important aspect of descriptive writing. By showing the reader what is happening through sensory details and action, rather than simply telling them, writers can create a more engaging and immersive experience. Metaphors, similes, and other literary devices can also be used to enhance descriptions and create a more interesting and engaging piece of writing. Varying sentence structure is another important technique that can be used to create rhythm and flow in the writing. Editing and revision are crucial steps in the writing process, and writers should take care to eliminate unnecessary detail and ensure that their writing is clear and concise. Examples of effective descriptive paragraphs in literature can serve as a guide for writers and provide inspiration for their own writing. Overall, mastering the art of writing descriptive paragraphs can greatly enhance the quality and impact of a writer's work.

## **9. Reflection**

Write a descriptive paragraph about a place or a person that is meaningful to you. Use sensory details, metaphors or similes, and varying sentence structures to create a vivid and engaging image in the reader's mind.

## **10. Sample Answers**

The beach was a place of solace for me, a sanctuary where I could escape the chaos of daily life. As I stepped onto the warm sand, I felt the grittiness between my toes, the grains sticking to my skin like tiny magnets. The salty sea breeze blew my hair back, and I could taste the salt on my lips. The turquoise waters lapped at the shore, creating a gentle rhythm that calmed my racing thoughts. As I walked along the

shoreline, the water rose to my ankles, then my shins, the coolness a relief from the scorching sun. The seagulls screeched overhead, their cries echoing in the vast expanse of sky. I could feel the tension in my shoulders melting away, as I lost myself in the beauty of the moment.

In this paragraph, the writer uses sensory details such as the feel of the sand and water, the taste of salt, and the sound of the seagulls to create a vivid image of the beach. Metaphors are also used, such as "grains sticking to my skin like tiny magnets," to further enhance the description. Varying sentence structures create a rhythm and flow in the writing, making it more engaging for the reader. Overall, this paragraph effectively brings the beach to life and creates a strong emotional connection for the reader.

# Chapter 5

## Unity in Writing

Learning Objectives	Students are able to recognize cohesive devices in a descriptive paragraph; use the proper cohesive devices in a paragraph; apply the proper cohesive device to write a coherent descriptive paragraph
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Cohesive devices for descriptive paragraphs (transition signals); Unity in Writing

### 1. Introduction to Cohesive Devices and Unity in Writing

Cohesion in writing refers to the use of cohesive devices or transition signals that link sentences and paragraphs together, creating a unified and coherent piece of writing. This is particularly important in descriptive writing, where the use of vivid and sensory details can easily become disjointed and disconnected without effective cohesion. In this module, we will discuss the importance of cohesive devices and unity in descriptive writing, as well as provide examples and exercises to help you improve your writing<sup>42</sup>.

#### A. Importance of Cohesion and Unity in Writing

Cohesion and unity are crucial elements in effective writing, as they help readers to follow and understand the writer's ideas and arguments. Cohesive devices are words, phrases, or sentences that connect one part of a text to another, providing a smooth and logical flow of ideas. Without cohesive devices, the reader can

<sup>42</sup> Alex Oshima and Ann Hogue, *Writing Academic English* (Longman, 2000); MAK Halliday and R Hasan, "1976: Cohesion in English. London: Longman," 1976.

become confused or disoriented, as the text may seem disjointed or difficult to follow.

In descriptive writing, cohesion is particularly important, as it helps to create a clear and vivid picture in the reader's mind. When writing descriptively, it can be easy to jump from one idea to another without a clear link, resulting in a jumbled and confusing description. Effective use of cohesive devices can help to ensure that each sentence and paragraph contributes to a clear and cohesive description.

## **B. Types of Cohesive Devices**

There are several types of cohesive devices that writers can use to create cohesion and unity in their writing. Some common types of cohesive devices include:

- **Conjunctions:** These are words that connect words, phrases, or clauses. Examples include "and," "but," "or," and "although."
- **Pronouns:** These are words that refer back to a noun previously mentioned in the text. Examples include "he," "she," "it," and "they."
- **Repetition:** This involves repeating a word or phrase to create emphasis or to link ideas together.
- **Transition Signals:** These are words or phrases that indicate a relationship between ideas. Examples include "therefore," "in addition," "on the other hand," and "as a result."
- **Parallel Structure:** This involves using a similar grammatical structure for multiple sentences or phrases. For example, "She likes hiking, swimming, and biking."

By using these cohesive devices effectively, writers can create a sense of unity and coherence in their writing, making it easier for readers to follow and understand their ideas.

## **2. Using Transition Signals to Create Cohesion in Descriptive Paragraphs**

Transition signals are words or phrases used to connect ideas and provide cohesion between sentences and paragraphs. They help to make writing more coherent, logical,

and easier to follow. In descriptive paragraphs, transition signals play an important role in creating a unified and cohesive text. According to Cargill and O'Connor<sup>43</sup>, transition signals can be used to show different relationships between ideas, such as cause and effect, contrast, and similarity. Some common transition signals used in descriptive writing include:

- Chronological signals: These are used to show the order of events or actions. Examples include "firstly," "then," "next," and "finally."
- Spatial signals: These show the location of objects or events. Examples include "above," "below," "near," and "far."
- Comparison signals: These show the similarity or difference between two things. Examples include "similarly," "likewise," "in contrast," and "on the other hand."
- Cause and effect signals: These show the relationship between a cause and its effect. Examples include "because," "as a result," "consequently," and "therefore."
- Addition signals: These show the addition of new information or ideas. Examples include "furthermore," "moreover," "in addition," and "also."

It is important to use transition signals effectively to maintain the flow of the text and to ensure that the writing is easy to understand. Overuse or misuse of transition signals can disrupt the flow and coherence of the text. In addition to using transition signals, it is also important to maintain unity in writing. Unity refers to the idea that every sentence in a paragraph should be related to the main idea or topic. This helps to ensure that the writing is focused and coherent. To maintain unity, writers should avoid including irrelevant or unrelated information in their paragraphs. They should also ensure that each sentence contributes to the overall message of the paragraph. By doing so, they can create a cohesive and effective piece of writing.

### **3. Examples of Transition Signals in Descriptive Paragraphs**

Transition signals are an essential aspect of cohesive writing that helps readers understand the logical connections between different ideas and sentences. By using

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<sup>43</sup> Margaret Cargill and Patrick O'Connor, *Writing Scientific Research Articles: Strategy and Steps* (John Wiley & Sons, 2021).



these signals, writers can create a smooth flow of ideas and provide a clear understanding of the relationships between different parts of the text. In descriptive paragraphs, transition signals play an important role in connecting sensory details and other descriptive elements to create a unified whole. By providing a clear sense of the relationships between different ideas, the text becomes easier to understand and more engaging for the reader.

Examples of transition signals in descriptive paragraphs can be found in many works of literature. For example, in Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea," the author uses spatial signals to create a vivid image of the setting:

"He no longer dreamed of storms, nor of women, nor of great occurrences, nor of great fish, nor fights, nor contests of strength, nor of his wife. He only dreamed of places now and of the lions on the beach."<sup>44</sup>

In this passage, the words "nor" and "only" serve as transition signals that create a sense of contrast and change. The transition from the old man's former dreams to his current dreams of places and lions helps to build a cohesive and unified description of his state of mind.

#### **4. Maintaining Unity in Descriptive Paragraphs: Avoiding Common Errors**

Unity in writing is an essential aspect of creating a cohesive and effective descriptive paragraph. It refers to the idea that all the sentences in a paragraph should be logically connected and work together to communicate a single idea or theme. To achieve unity, writers need to avoid common errors that can disrupt the flow of their paragraphs. According to Duncan<sup>45</sup>, one common error is introducing irrelevant or off-topic information that does not relate to the main idea of the paragraph. This can distract the reader and make the paragraph feel disjointed. Therefore, it is important to stay focused on the main idea and avoid introducing unrelated details.

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<sup>44</sup> Harold Bloom, *Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea* (Infobase Publishing, 2008).

<sup>45</sup> Mike Duncan, "Understanding the Paragraph and Paragraphing," *Composition Studies* 48, no. 3 (2020): 155–62.

Another error is the lack of a clear topic sentence. A topic sentence should clearly communicate the main idea or theme of the paragraph and provide a guide for the rest of the sentences in the paragraph. A topic sentence should be clear, concise, and placed at the beginning of the paragraph to establish the paragraph's focus. Additionally, it is essential to avoid repetition of ideas or using redundant sentences that do not contribute to the paragraph's overall message. Repetitive sentences can make the paragraph feel tedious and boring, causing the reader to lose interest. Lastly, transitions should be used appropriately to maintain unity in descriptive paragraphs. Transitions are words or phrases that connect one idea to another and create a logical flow between sentences. Transitions can signal contrast, comparison, cause-and-effect, and chronological order, among other things, which help to guide the reader through the paragraph.

## **5. Summary**

Cohesive devices, also known as transition signals, are important tools in creating unity in descriptive paragraphs. These signals help connect ideas and maintain coherence throughout the paragraph. Transition signals can be used to indicate a new idea, provide additional information, show contrast, and more. It is important to use them effectively to create a seamless flow of ideas. However, errors can occur if the signals are used incorrectly or excessively. To maintain unity, it is crucial to avoid common errors such as using too many signals, using them incorrectly, or overusing the same signal. By using cohesive devices appropriately and avoiding common errors, writers can create descriptive paragraphs that are coherent and unified.

## **6. Reflection**

Write a descriptive paragraph of 5-6 sentences on a topic of your choice. Use cohesive devices such as transition signals to create unity and coherence in your paragraph. Identify and explain the cohesive devices you used and how they contribute to the unity of your paragraph.

## **7. Sample Answers**

The sun was setting behind the mountains, casting a warm glow on the fields below. As the sky turned shades of pink and orange, the birds began to fly back to their nests, chirping in a chorus. The wind picked up, rustling the leaves on the trees and bringing a sweet scent of flowers from the nearby garden. In the distance, I could hear the sound of a river flowing, its gentle murmur lulling me into a peaceful state of mind.

Through the use of transition signals such as "As," "The wind picked up," "In the distance," and "Through the use of," I was able to connect my ideas and create a sense of unity in my paragraph. These cohesive devices help to guide the reader through the different elements of the scene, creating a clear and vivid picture in their mind.

# Chapter 6

## Understanding Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to organize selected ideas based on an assigned construction to form a paragraph; develop the selected ideas into proper supporting sentences to form a paragraph; use proper sensory words as details in a descriptive paragraph of places.
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Clustering and organizing ideas from outline to a paragraph

### 1. Introduction to Clustering and Organizing Ideas in Writing

Organizing ideas is essential in writing coherent and effective paragraphs. According to Williams<sup>46</sup>, clustering is a useful technique for generating ideas and organizing them into logical groups. Clustering involves brainstorming ideas and then grouping them into related categories. This process helps writers to identify the main ideas, supporting details, and relationships between them. Another effective technique for organizing ideas is outlining. Outlining involves creating a hierarchical structure of the main ideas and supporting details in a logical sequence. This technique helps writers to develop a clear and coherent argument and ensures that all important ideas are included. In summary, clustering and outlining are two powerful techniques for organizing ideas in writing. Clustering helps writers to generate and group ideas, while outlining helps writers to structure their ideas into a logical sequence. These techniques can help writers to produce well-organized and effective paragraphs.

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<sup>46</sup> Williams and Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace*.

## **2. Techniques for Clustering and Generating Ideas**

Clustering and generating ideas are critical steps in the writing process. According to Graham and Perin<sup>47</sup>, brainstorming is a commonly used technique for generating ideas. Brainstorming involves generating as many ideas as possible without filtering or evaluating them. The ideas are then grouped into related categories using clustering techniques, such as mind mapping or concept mapping. Mind mapping involves creating a visual representation of the ideas using a central concept or topic and branching out into related subtopics. Concept mapping is a more structured approach that involves creating a hierarchical diagram of ideas with main topics, subtopics, and supporting details.

Another effective technique for generating ideas is freewriting. Freewriting involves writing continuously without worrying about grammar, spelling, or punctuation for a set period. This technique helps writers to generate ideas and overcome writer's block. In summary, brainstorming, mind mapping, concept mapping, and freewriting are effective techniques for generating ideas and clustering related ideas. These techniques can help writers to organize their thoughts and produce well-structured and coherent writing.

## **3. Outlining Your Ideas for a Clear Structure**

Outlining is a powerful technique for organizing ideas into a clear and coherent structure. According to Hacker and Sommers<sup>48</sup>, outlining involves creating a hierarchical structure of main ideas and supporting details in a logical sequence. This technique helps writers to develop a clear and coherent argument and ensure that all important ideas are included. Outlining can take different forms, depending on the writer's preference and the type of writing. For example, a traditional outline typically consists of headings and subheadings with bullet points of supporting details. On the other hand, a topic outline uses phrases or single words to describe the main ideas and supporting details. Another approach to outlining is the reverse outlining technique, which involves reviewing a completed draft and creating an outline based

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<sup>47</sup> Steve Graham and Dolores Perin, "Writing Next-Effective Strategies to Improve Writing of Adolescents in Middle and High Schools," 2007.

<sup>48</sup> Hacker and Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St."

on the content. This technique helps writers to identify any gaps or inconsistencies in their writing and ensure that the structure is coherent. In summary, outlining is an effective technique for organizing ideas into a clear and coherent structure. It can take different forms, such as traditional or topic outlines, and can be done before or after writing. Using outlining techniques can help writers to produce well-structured and effective writing.

#### **4. Writing the Paragraph: From Outline to Final Draft**

Writing a paragraph involves several stages, from outlining to finalizing the draft. The first step is to create an outline that includes a clear topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence. The outline serves as a guide to help writers organize their thoughts and develop a coherent paragraph. Once the outline is complete, the next step is to write the first draft. During this stage, writers should focus on getting their ideas down on paper without worrying about grammar, spelling, or punctuation. The first draft is often called a rough draft and should be revised several times to refine the ideas and improve the structure and clarity.

One useful technique for revising a paragraph is peer review. Peer review involves having a colleague or classmate read and provide feedback on the draft. Peer review can help writers to identify areas for improvement and gain new perspectives on their writing. After revising the draft, the final step is to proofread and edit the paragraph. This involves checking for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors, as well as ensuring that the paragraph is well-organized and coherent. In summary, writing a paragraph involves several stages, including outlining, drafting, revising, and editing. Using techniques such as peer review can help writers to improve the quality of their writing and produce a well-structured and coherent paragraph.

#### **5. Common Pitfalls in Organizing Ideas and How to Avoid Them**

While organizing ideas can improve the structure and coherence of writing, there are also common pitfalls that writers should avoid. One such pitfall is the lack of a clear and concise thesis statement. A thesis statement is essential in guiding the direction of the writing and providing a clear focus. Without a well-defined thesis statement,

the writing may lack coherence and fail to address the topic adequately. Another common pitfall is the lack of transitional phrases or sentences between paragraphs. According to McWhorter<sup>49</sup>, transitions are essential in guiding readers through the writing and connecting ideas in a logical sequence. Without clear transitions, readers may become confused and find it challenging to follow the writer's ideas.

A third pitfall is the lack of a clear and logical organization of ideas. According to Hacker and Sommers<sup>50</sup>, writers should ensure that ideas are presented in a logical order and that there is a clear and concise structure to the writing. Without a clear organization, the writing may be difficult to follow and lack coherence. To avoid these common pitfalls, writers can take several steps. Firstly, they should ensure that they have a clear and concise thesis statement that guides the direction of their writing. Secondly, they should use transitional phrases or sentences to connect ideas and provide a logical flow to the writing. Finally, writers should ensure that they have a clear and logical organization of ideas, with a clear structure that guides readers through the writing.

## **6. Tips for Improving Your Clustering and Organizing Skills**

Clustering and organizing skills are essential for effective writing. To improve these skills, authors provide several tips based on their research and experience. One tip is to use keywords or phrases when clustering. This can help in identifying the main ideas and connections between them. Using color coding to visually represent the clusters makes it easier to organize and see relationships between ideas. Another tip suggested by Lunsford and Connors<sup>51</sup> is to use outlines to organize ideas before writing. Outlining provides a clear and structured plan, allowing for easy identification of main points and supporting evidence. They suggest starting with a thesis statement and building a hierarchy of ideas that support it.

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<sup>49</sup> McWhorter, *Successful College Writing: Skills-Strategies-Learning Styles*.

<sup>50</sup> Hacker and Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St."

<sup>51</sup> Cargill and O'Connor, *Writing Scientific Research Articles: Strategy and Steps*; Hacker and Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St."

A third tip is to use transitions to connect ideas and make writing flow smoothly. She recommends using different types of transitions, such as additive, adversative, and causal, to connect ideas and create coherence. In addition, Hacker and Sommers suggest revising and editing to improve clustering and organizing skills. Revision allows for a critical review of ideas and their organization, and editing ensures that the final draft is clear and coherent. Finally, Murray<sup>52</sup> suggests practicing clustering and organizing skills regularly to improve. She recommends using clustering exercises as a warm-up activity before writing, and reviewing past writing to identify areas for improvement. In summary, tips for improving clustering and organizing skills include using keywords or phrases, color coding, outlining, using transitions, revising and editing, and regular practice. By implementing these tips, writers can improve the clarity, coherence, and effectiveness of their writing.

## **7. Summary**

Clustering and organizing ideas in paragraph writing are a crucial step that can make a significant difference in the clarity and effectiveness of the final product. One effective approach is to start with brainstorming, clustering similar ideas together, and creating an outline to organize the main points and supporting details. After developing a clear and logical structure, the writer can then begin to write the paragraph, following the outline and ensuring coherence between sentences and ideas. To avoid common pitfalls, writers can use transitions, avoid repetition, and stay focused on the main topic. By following these guidelines and practicing regularly, writers can improve their clustering and organizing skills and produce well-structured and effective paragraphs.

## **8. Reflection**

Write a well-organized paragraph using the clustering and organizing ideas approach. Start by brainstorming your ideas and clustering them together, then create an outline to organize your main points and supporting details. Use transitions and avoid repetition to ensure coherence between sentences and ideas.

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<sup>52</sup> Murray, "Teach Writing as a Process Not Product."



## 9. Sample Answers

Topic: The Benefits of Regular Exercise

Regular exercise has numerous benefits for both physical and mental health. By clustering my ideas, I identified the following main points: 1) physical benefits, 2) mental benefits, and 3) ways to incorporate exercise into daily routine. Using these main points, I created the following outline:

- I. Introduction  
Briefly introduce the topic of regular exercise
- II. Physical Benefits of Regular Exercise  
Increased strength and endurance Improved cardiovascular health Lowered risk of chronic diseases
- III. Mental Benefits of Regular Exercise  
Reduced stress and anxiety Improved mood and self-esteem Enhanced cognitive function
- IV. Ways to Incorporate Exercise into Daily Routine  
Taking the stairs instead of the elevator Walking or biking instead of driving short distances Joining a fitness class or sports team
- V. Conclusion  
Summarize the main points and emphasize the importance of regular exercise

Using this outline, I wrote the following paragraph:

Regular exercise provides numerous benefits for both physical and mental health. Physically, exercise increases strength and endurance, improves cardiovascular health, and lowers the risk of chronic diseases. Mentally, exercise reduces stress and anxiety, improves mood and self-esteem, and enhances cognitive function. There are also many ways to incorporate exercise into your daily routine, such as taking the stairs instead of the elevator, walking or biking instead of driving short distances, and joining a fitness class or sports team. In conclusion, the benefits of regular exercise cannot be overstated. By making exercise a part of your daily routine, you can improve your overall health and well-being.

In this paragraph, I used transitions to connect ideas and avoid repetition. For example, I used the phrase "physically" to introduce the physical benefits, and "mentally" to introduce the mental benefits. I also used the phrase "there are also" to introduce ways to incorporate exercise, and "in conclusion" to signal the end of the paragraph.

# Chapter 7

## Self-Editing Process

Learning Objectives	Students are able to carry out self-editing activity towards his/her own descriptive paragraph; carry out peer-editing activity towards their classmates' descriptive paragraph
Time Allocation	2 × 45''
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Procedure and aspects to assess in self – editing process; Procedure and aspects to assess in peer – editing process

### 1. Introduction to Self-Editing: Why it Matters

Self-editing is an important process that allows writers to improve the quality of their writing by reviewing and revising their work. It involves identifying and correcting errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, as well as improving the organization and clarity of ideas. In this section, we will discuss the reasons why self-editing is important in paragraph writing. One of the primary reasons for self-editing is to improve the clarity and coherence of the writing. Self-editing helps writers identify and repair problems that can impede comprehension. By carefully reviewing their work, writers can ensure that their ideas are expressed clearly and in a logical sequence.

Another reason why self-editing is important is to eliminate errors and inconsistencies in grammar and punctuation. Good writing is clear thinking made visible, but it is also good editing. By correcting errors in grammar and punctuation, writers can ensure that their work is free from distractions that can detract from the effectiveness of their writing. Furthermore, self-editing can save time and effort in

the long run. By identifying and correcting errors early on, writers can avoid the need for extensive revisions later in the process. This can be particularly important when writing under time constraints. In addition, self-editing allows writers to take ownership of their work and to approach it with a critical eye. The act of revision is the act of making choices and taking responsibility for them. By taking the time to revise and improve their work, writers can feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in their writing<sup>53</sup>.

## **2. Common Errors in Paragraph Writing to Look Out For**

There are several common errors that writers should be aware of when self-editing their paragraphs. One of the most common errors is a lack of clarity in the thesis statement or main idea. This can result in a paragraph that is unfocused and difficult to follow. It's important to make sure that the thesis statement is clear and concise, and that all of the supporting sentences relate back to the main idea. Another common error is the use of vague or imprecise language. Words and phrases like "very," "a lot," or "really" don't add much meaning to a paragraph and can make it seem less professional. It's important to use precise and specific language to convey your ideas effectively.

Additionally, writers should be aware of the importance of transitions between sentences and paragraphs. Without proper transitions, a paragraph can seem disjointed and difficult to follow. Transitions can be as simple as a word or phrase that indicates a connection between ideas, such as "however" or "furthermore." Another common error is the lack of proofreading for grammar and spelling mistakes. Even the best writers can make mistakes, and it's important to take the time to carefully proofread your work to catch any errors that may have been overlooked. Overall, by being aware of these common errors and taking the time to self-edit their work, writers can improve the clarity and effectiveness of their paragraphs.

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<sup>53</sup> Murray.

### **3. Strategies for Self-Editing: How to Identify and Correct Errors**

Self-editing is an essential part of the writing process, and there are several strategies that writers can use to identify and correct errors in their paragraphs. One effective strategy is to read the paragraph out loud. This can help to identify awkward or unclear phrasing, as well as grammatical errors or misspelled words. Another strategy is to take a break from the writing and come back to it with fresh eyes. This can help to identify errors that may have been overlooked in the initial writing process. It's also important to pay attention to the organization of the paragraph. Each sentence should flow logically from the previous one and relate back to the main idea. If there are any sentences that seem out of place or don't fit with the overall structure, they may need to be reworded or removed.

Another strategy is to use online tools or software to help identify errors. These tools can check for spelling and grammar mistakes, as well as suggest improvements to sentence structure and word choice. However, it's important to use these tools with caution and not rely solely on them for editing. Finally, it's important to get feedback from others. Sharing the paragraph with a friend, colleague, or writing group can provide valuable insights and suggestions for improvement. It's important to be open to feedback and willing to make revisions based on constructive criticism. By using these strategies and taking the time to self-edit, writers can improve the overall quality of their paragraphs and effectively convey their ideas<sup>54</sup>.

### **4. Revising for Clarity and Coherence: Tips and Techniques**

When revising a paragraph, writers should focus on improving clarity and coherence to ensure that their message is effectively conveyed to the reader. There are several tips and techniques that can help with this process. Firstly, it's important to read the paragraph objectively as if seeing it for the first time. This can help to identify any confusing or unclear sentences that may need to be revised. It's also important to pay attention to the organization of the paragraph, ensuring that each sentence flows logically and relates back to the main idea.

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<sup>54</sup> Hacker and Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St"; Strunk Jr and White, *The Elements of Style Illustrated*.

Secondly, writers can use transitional phrases and words to help create a sense of coherence and unity within the paragraph. Transitional phrases such as "in addition", "however", and "on the other hand" can help to connect sentences and ideas, making the paragraph flow more smoothly. Another useful technique is to vary sentence length and structure. Using a mix of long and short sentences, as well as different sentence structures such as simple, compound, and complex sentences, can help to create a sense of rhythm and flow within the paragraph. Additionally, it's important to be mindful of word choice. Using clear and concise language can help to eliminate confusion and ensure that the intended message is effectively conveyed to the reader.

Finally, seeking feedback from others can also be a valuable tool in the revision process. Other readers can provide constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement, helping to refine the clarity and coherence of the paragraph. By following these tips and techniques, writers can improve the clarity and coherence of their paragraphs, making them more effective in communicating their ideas to the reader.

## **5. Polishing Your Paragraph: Final Edits and Proofreading**

When it comes to writing, the final step after revising is to polish the paragraph through final edits and proofreading. This process involves looking for any errors or typos that may have been missed during previous revisions. The authors suggest several tips and techniques to help polish the paragraph:

- **Read the paragraph out loud:** Reading the paragraph out loud can help identify any awkward sentences, run-on sentences, or other issues with clarity and coherence.
- **Check for consistency:** Ensure that the paragraph is consistent in terms of tense, tone, and point of view. Inconsistencies can be distracting for readers.
- **Use active voice:** Active voice makes the paragraph more engaging and easier to read. Look for any instances of passive voice and revise them.
- **Avoid repetition:** Repeating the same word or phrase too often can make the paragraph monotonous. Use synonyms or rephrase sentences to avoid repetition.

- **Proofread carefully:** Carefully proofread the paragraph for any errors or typos. Use spell-check, but also read through the paragraph word by word to catch any mistakes that may have been missed.

By following these tips and techniques, writers can ensure that their paragraphs are polished and error-free. It is important to take the time to properly proofread, as errors can detract from the overall effectiveness of the paragraph.

## **6. The Importance of Getting Feedback: Working with Peer Editors**

When it comes to improving your writing, getting feedback from others can be incredibly valuable. Peer editing, which involves having other writers read and provide feedback on your work, can be especially helpful. One benefit of peer editing is that it can give you a fresh perspective on your writing. Other writers may notice things that you missed, such as unclear sentences or confusing transitions between ideas. Additionally, peer editing can help you identify areas where you may need to revise or clarify your writing.

To make the most of peer editing, it's important to choose your peer editors carefully. Look for writers who are experienced and skilled in the type of writing you're working on, whether that's academic writing, creative writing, or something else. It's also a good idea to choose peer editors who are willing to be honest with you about your writing, and who can provide constructive criticism. When working with peer editors, it's important to establish clear guidelines and expectations for the feedback you're looking for.

Provide your peer editors with a copy of your work and a set of specific questions or prompts to guide their feedback. Additionally, be open to their suggestions and feedback, and be willing to revise your writing based on their comments. Overall, peer editing can be an invaluable tool for improving your writing skills. By working with other writers and getting feedback on your work, you can gain new insights into

your writing, identify areas for improvement, and ultimately produce stronger, more effective writing<sup>55</sup>.

## **7. Summary**

Self-editing is an essential process for any writer who wishes to produce high-quality work. In this module, we have discussed why self-editing matters and the common errors to look out for in paragraph writing. It is important to be able to identify and correct these errors by using strategies such as reading the work out loud, taking breaks, and seeking feedback from others. Additionally, revising for clarity and coherence is crucial to ensure that the paragraph flows smoothly and is easy to understand. Polishing the final draft through careful proofreading and editing is also crucial to eliminate any lingering errors. Finally, working with peer editors can provide valuable feedback and new perspectives on the work, making self-editing a collaborative process. By making self-editing a habit, writers can improve their writing skills and produce better quality work.

## **8. Reflection**

Choose a paragraph that you have written and use the self-editing process to revise and improve it. Use the strategies discussed in the module, such as identifying and correcting errors, improving clarity and coherence, and making final edits and proofreading. Write both the original paragraph and the revised version, highlighting the changes you made.

## **9. Sample Answers**

Original paragraph:

I love to cook. I think cooking is a really fun hobby. I like trying new recipes and experimenting with different ingredients. My friends always compliment me on my cooking, and I feel proud when I make a delicious meal. Cooking is a great way to relax and destress after a long day.

Revised paragraph:

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<sup>55</sup> John M Lannon, *The Writing Process: A Concise Rhetoric, Reader, and Handbook* (Pearson Longman, 2004); Hacker and Sommers, "A Writer's Reference, Bedford/St."



I enjoy cooking as a hobby because it allows me to experiment with different ingredients and try new recipes. Whenever I make a delicious meal, it gives me a sense of pride and satisfaction. Cooking is not only enjoyable, but it is also a great way to relax and destress after a long day. My friends often compliment me on my cooking, and I appreciate their positive feedback.

Changes made:

- Revised sentence structure to improve coherence and flow
- Added details to describe the sense of pride and satisfaction that comes from making a delicious meal
- Replaced "think" with "enjoy" to make the writing more concise and direct
- Added a concluding sentence to wrap up the paragraph and emphasize the importance of positive feedback.

Overall, the revised paragraph is clearer and more concise, with improved coherence and flow. The added details and concluding sentence help to emphasize the writer's enjoyment of cooking and the importance of feedback.

# Chapter 8

## Expository Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to authentically write expository paragraph using chronology and process
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Expository text

### 1. Introduction to Expository Paragraphs: Definition and Purpose

Expository paragraphs are used to explain or describe a concept, idea, or process in a clear and concise manner. The primary purpose of an expository paragraph is to provide information to the reader, often with the intention of helping them understand a complex topic. Expository writing aims to provide a balanced and objective view of the topic, with the author presenting facts, evidence, and logical reasoning to support their claims. The structure of an expository paragraph usually follows a clear and organized pattern. As explained by McWhorter<sup>56</sup>, an expository paragraph typically starts with a topic sentence that introduces the main idea or concept that will be discussed. The following sentences provide supporting details, examples, and explanations to help the reader understand the topic. Finally, the paragraph ends with a concluding sentence that summarizes the main points and reinforces the overall message of the paragraph. Expository paragraphs are commonly used in academic writing, as they allow writers to present complex information in a clear and concise manner. They can be found in research papers, essays, and even textbooks. Furthermore, expository paragraphs can also be used in everyday communication, such as in business reports or technical manuals.

<sup>56</sup> McWhorter, *Successful College Writing: Skills-Strategies-Learning Styles*.

## **2. Structuring an Expository Paragraph: Tips and Techniques**

Structuring an expository paragraph requires a clear understanding of the purpose of the paragraph and the intended audience. According to Hountondji<sup>57</sup>, the structure of an expository paragraph should consist of three essential parts: the topic sentence, the body, and the concluding sentence. The topic sentence should clearly state the main idea or purpose of the paragraph, and the body should provide supporting evidence or details. The concluding sentence should summarize the main point and provide a smooth transition to the next paragraph. When structuring the body of an expository paragraph, it is important to consider the intended audience and their level of knowledge on the topic.

Paragraphs can be structured in various ways, such as chronological, spatial, and order of importance. Additionally, using effective transitions between sentences and paragraphs can help maintain the coherence of the paragraph. To enhance the clarity and effectiveness of an expository paragraph, using strong and precise language is key. Using specific and vivid language can help paint a clear picture in the reader's mind, making the paragraph more engaging and effective. Overall, structuring an expository paragraph requires careful planning and attention to detail. By following the recommended structure and incorporating effective language and transitions, a well-crafted expository paragraph can effectively convey the intended message to the audience.

## **3. Writing Strong Topic Sentences for Expository Paragraphs**

When writing an expository paragraph, the topic sentence is crucial because it sets the tone for the rest of the paragraph. A topic sentence should make a point that is both specific and arguable. This means that the topic sentence should not be too general or obvious, but rather should make a claim that can be supported by evidence. In addition to being specific and arguable, a strong topic sentence for an expository paragraph should also be clear and concise. A topic sentence should contain no more than one main idea. This helps to ensure that the point being made is clear and easy

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<sup>57</sup> Paulin J Hountondji, *The Struggle for Meaning: Reflections on Philosophy, Culture, and Democracy in Africa*, vol. 78 (Ohio University Press, 2002).

for the reader to understand. Another important aspect of writing a strong topic sentence is to make sure it is relevant to the thesis statement or overall purpose of the essay.

Swales and Feak<sup>58</sup> emphasize the importance of "maintaining a clear and logical connection between the topic sentences and the thesis statement". This helps to ensure that the paragraph contributes to the overall argument of the essay and doesn't stray off-topic. In order to write a strong topic sentence, it can be helpful to brainstorm and consider different angles or perspectives on the topic. This can help to identify a specific and arguable point that can be made in the topic sentence. It can also be useful to refer back to the thesis statement or main argument of the essay to ensure that the topic sentence is relevant and contributes to the overall purpose of the piece.

#### **4. Developing Ideas and Evidence in Expository Paragraphs**

Developing ideas and evidence is a crucial aspect of writing effective expository paragraphs. The purpose of an expository paragraph is to provide information, explain a concept, or describe a process. To achieve this, the writer needs to develop their ideas in a clear and concise manner, using evidence to support their claims. One effective strategy for developing ideas and evidence is to use the MEAL plan, which stands for Main Idea, Evidence, Analysis, and Link. The main idea is the topic sentence, which presents the central idea of the paragraph. The evidence includes specific details, examples, and facts that support the main idea. The analysis is the writer's interpretation of the evidence, explaining how it supports the main idea. Finally, the link connects the paragraph to the thesis statement or the overall argument of the essay.

Another effective strategy for developing ideas and evidence is to use the TIEAC method, which stands for Topic sentence, Illustration, Explanation, Analysis, and Conclusion. The topic sentence is the main idea of the paragraph, the illustration is

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<sup>58</sup> John M Swales and Christine B Feak, *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills*, vol. 1 (University of Michigan Press Ann Arbor, MI, 2004), 112.

the evidence used to support the topic sentence, the explanation explains how the illustration supports the topic sentence, the analysis explains why the illustration is important or relevant, and the conclusion summarizes the paragraph and connects it back to the thesis statement or overall argument. When developing ideas and evidence, it is important to consider the needs of the audience and the purpose of the paragraph. The writer should also use reliable sources to support their claims, and avoid using biased or unsubstantiated information. It is also important to vary the types of evidence used, such as statistics, examples, anecdotes, or expert opinions, to keep the paragraph engaging and informative<sup>59</sup>.

## **5. Summary**

An expository paragraph aims to inform or explain a particular topic or idea. It provides facts, statistics, and evidence to the readers in a clear and concise manner. In this section, we will discuss the essential elements of an expository paragraph and how to structure it effectively. The structure of an expository paragraph is critical in communicating the intended message to the readers. It should have three parts: an introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction should include the topic sentence, which is the main idea of the paragraph. The body should provide supporting evidence, examples, and facts that reinforce the topic sentence. Finally, the conclusion should restate the topic sentence and provide a summary of the supporting evidence.

A strong topic sentence sets the tone for the entire paragraph and communicates the main idea to the readers. It should be clear, concise, and specific. It should also be interesting and engaging to capture the readers' attention. A good way to write a strong topic sentence is to make it debatable, controversial, or surprising. To develop ideas and evidence in an expository paragraph, it is important to do thorough research and gather reliable information. The evidence should support the topic sentence and be presented in a logical order. Examples, statistics, and quotes can be used to provide evidence. The ideas should flow smoothly and logically to ensure clarity and coherence.

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<sup>59</sup> {Citation}

In conclusion, writing an effective expository paragraph requires careful planning and attention to detail. The structure, topic sentence, and supporting evidence are essential elements that should be considered. Thorough research and gathering reliable information are necessary to develop ideas and evidence that reinforce the topic sentence. By following these tips and techniques, you can create well-structured, informative, and engaging expository paragraphs.

## **6. Reflection**

Prompt: Write an expository paragraph explaining the benefits of regular exercise.

Instructions:

1. Start with a strong topic sentence that clearly states the main idea of the paragraph.
2. Develop your ideas with supporting evidence and examples.
3. Use transition words to connect your ideas and make your paragraph flow smoothly.
4. End with a concluding sentence that summarizes your main points and leaves a lasting impression on the reader.

## **7. Sample Answers**

Regular exercise has numerous benefits for both the body and mind. For starters, exercise helps to improve cardiovascular health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, exercise is an effective way to manage weight, increase muscle strength, and improve flexibility. In addition to physical health benefits, exercise also has a positive impact on mental health. It helps to reduce stress, improve mood, and boost self-confidence. Moreover, exercise can also improve brain function, including memory and cognitive performance. In conclusion, making regular exercise a part of your daily routine can lead to a healthier, happier, and more fulfilling life.

# Chapter 9

## Enumeration Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to Appropriately use enumerator in a paragraph
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Enumeration

### 1. Introduction to Enumeration Paragraphs: Definition and Purpose

Enumeration paragraphs are a type of paragraph that lists a series of items or ideas. These paragraphs are often used to provide a concise and organized overview of a topic or to break down complex information into smaller, more manageable parts. In an enumeration paragraph, each item is typically numbered or bullet-pointed, with each point presented in a clear and concise manner.

The purpose of an enumeration paragraph is to provide a clear and concise overview of a topic, making it easier for the reader to understand and retain the information presented. This type of paragraph is particularly useful for presenting information that may be difficult to grasp when presented in a longer or more complex format. By breaking down information into smaller, more manageable parts, enumeration paragraphs can help readers to focus on key points and retain information more effectively.

There are many different types of enumeration paragraphs, including lists, bullet points, and numbered lists. Each type of enumeration paragraph has its own unique

characteristics and can be used in a variety of different contexts, depending on the type of information being presented and the intended audience.

In summary, enumeration paragraphs are a useful tool for presenting complex information in a clear and concise manner. By breaking down information into smaller, more manageable parts, enumeration paragraphs can help readers to focus on key points and retain information more effectively.

## **2. Structuring an Enumeration Paragraph: Tips and Techniques**

When it comes to structuring an enumeration paragraph, there are several tips and techniques that can help ensure its effectiveness. First, it's important to have a clear and concise topic sentence that lays out the main idea or theme of the paragraph. This sentence should also indicate the number of items to be listed or enumerated in the paragraph.

Next, the writer should organize the list or enumeration in a logical and coherent manner. One way to do this is to use parallelism, where each item in the list is presented in a similar grammatical structure. For example, each item might start with a verb, such as "to improve," "to enhance," or "to increase."

Another technique is to use subheadings or bullet points to break up the list visually and make it easier to read. This can also help to emphasize the individual items in the list and make them more memorable for the reader. It's also important to provide sufficient detail and explanation for each item in the list. This can help to clarify the importance and relevance of each item and how it relates to the main idea or theme of the paragraph.

Finally, the writer should consider the overall length and organization of the paragraph, making sure that it flows smoothly and is well-connected to any preceding or following paragraphs. By following these tips and techniques, writers can



effectively structure an enumeration paragraph and communicate their ideas clearly and convincingly<sup>60</sup>.

### **3. Writing Strong Topic Sentences for Enumeration Paragraphs**

When writing an enumeration paragraph, it is important to have a strong topic sentence that clearly states the main point or idea being enumerated. A good topic sentence should be clear, concise, and specific. It should also reflect the overall structure of the paragraph and provide a roadmap for the reader to follow. One effective technique for writing a strong topic sentence in an enumeration paragraph is to use parallel structure. This means using a consistent grammatical pattern for each item being enumerated. For example, if you are listing different types of food, you might use a pattern like "First, ..., Second, ..., Third, ...". This creates a sense of order and helps the reader to follow the progression of ideas.

Another technique for writing a strong topic sentence in an enumeration paragraph is to use transitional words or phrases to signal the beginning of each item being enumerated. Examples of such words include "firstly", "secondly", "in addition", "furthermore", "moreover", "finally", "lastly", etc. These transitional words or phrases help to connect the ideas and make the paragraph flow smoothly. Overall, a strong topic sentence in an enumeration paragraph should clearly and concisely state the main point being enumerated, reflect the overall structure of the paragraph, and provide a roadmap for the reader to follow.

### **4. Developing Ideas and Examples in Enumeration Paragraphs**

To develop ideas in writing enumeration paragraphs, you can follow these steps:

1. Brainstorm: Take a few minutes to brainstorm all the ideas and examples that come to mind related to your topic.
2. Group similar ideas: Look for similarities and group similar ideas together. This will help you create subtopics and organize your paragraph.

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<sup>60</sup> Behrens, Rosen, and Behrens, *Writing and Reading across the Curriculum*.

3. Choose the strongest ideas: Once you have grouped your ideas, choose the strongest ones to use in your paragraph. These should be the most relevant and convincing examples to support your topic sentence.
4. Order your ideas: Determine the order of your ideas. One common approach is to order them from least to most important or from general to specific.
5. Use transitions: Use transition words and phrases to connect your ideas and create a smooth flow in your paragraph.
6. Revise and edit: Once you have written your paragraph, review it to ensure that your ideas are clear and well-organized. Make any necessary revisions and edits to improve the coherence and effectiveness of your paragraph.

Furthermore, Examples play a crucial role in developing an effective enumeration paragraph. They help to illustrate and support the ideas presented in the topic sentences and make the paragraph more convincing and relatable to the reader. When selecting examples, it is essential to choose ones that are relevant and support the overall purpose of the paragraph. There are different types of examples that can be used in an enumeration paragraph, including personal experiences, anecdotes, statistics, facts, and expert opinions. Personal experiences and anecdotes can help to make the paragraph more relatable and engaging to the reader. Statistics and facts can provide evidence to support the ideas presented in the topic sentence. Expert opinions can add credibility to the paragraph and support the argument presented in the topic sentence. It is important to use examples that are accurate and reliable. It is also essential to provide proper citation for any statistics or facts used in the paragraph to avoid plagiarism. When using personal experiences or anecdotes, it is important to ensure that they are relevant and add value to the paragraph.

Following are a few examples of enumeration paragraphs:

Example 1:

**Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint** There are several ways that you can reduce your carbon footprint and help the environment. Firstly, you can try to reduce your energy usage by turning off lights and appliances when they are not in use. Secondly, you can reduce your reliance on fossil fuels by using public transportation, carpooling

or biking to work. Thirdly, you can reduce your meat consumption, as the meat industry is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Fourthly, you can reduce your water usage by taking shorter showers and fixing leaks. Finally, you can reduce your waste by recycling and composting.

Example 2:

**Tips for Better Time Management** Effective time management can lead to increased productivity and reduced stress. Here are some tips for better time management. Firstly, create a to-do list to prioritize your tasks and stay organized. Secondly, set goals for yourself and track your progress. Thirdly, avoid procrastination by breaking down tasks into smaller, more manageable steps. Fourthly, use a timer or app to help you stay on track and manage your time effectively. Finally, make sure to take breaks and schedule time for self-care to avoid burnout.

Example 3:

**Benefits of Regular Exercise** Regular exercise has numerous benefits for both physical and mental health. Firstly, exercise can help to reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. Secondly, exercise can improve cardiovascular health by strengthening the heart and improving blood flow. Thirdly, exercise can improve mood and reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression. Fourthly, exercise can improve sleep quality, which can lead to increased energy levels and productivity. Finally, exercise can help to build and maintain strong muscles and bones, reducing the risk of injury and maintaining overall mobility.

These are just a few examples of enumeration paragraphs, but they demonstrate how enumeration can be used to organize ideas and present them in a clear and concise manner.

## **5. Summary**

An enumeration paragraph is a type of paragraph in which a topic is presented along with a list of related items or ideas. It typically follows a structure where a topic sentence is followed by a list of items, which can be presented in a chronological or hierarchical order. To write a strong enumeration paragraph, it is important to have a clear and focused topic sentence that introduces the topic and the list of items. The

items should be well-developed with supporting details, examples, and evidence to help the reader understand the topic. When developing ideas in an enumeration paragraph, it can be helpful to use brainstorming techniques, such as mind mapping or listing, to generate a list of related items or ideas. From there, the writer can organize the items in a logical order and develop them with specific details and examples. Examples can be used in enumeration paragraphs to provide evidence and support for the ideas being presented. These examples can be drawn from personal experience, research, or other sources, and should be relevant and clearly connected to the items on the list. Overall, enumeration paragraphs can be an effective way to organize and present information in a clear and concise manner, making them useful in various forms of writing, such as reports, essays, and articles.

## **6. Reflection**

Prompt: Write an enumeration paragraph on the benefits of regular exercise.

## **7. Sample Answers**

Regular exercise provides numerous benefits for both physical and mental health. Firstly, it helps to maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of obesity-related diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Secondly, exercise promotes cardiovascular health by strengthening the heart and improving blood flow. Thirdly, it can help to increase muscle strength and endurance, which enhances overall physical performance. Fourthly, exercise has been shown to improve mental health by reducing stress and anxiety and boosting mood through the release of endorphins. Finally, regular exercise can improve sleep quality, resulting in better rest and higher energy levels during the day. In summary, making exercise a part of one's routine can have a positive impact on both physical and mental well-being.

# Chapter 10

## Understanding Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to authentically write a persuasive paragraph
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Persuasive Paragraphs

### 1. Introduction to Persuasive Paragraphs: Definition and Purpose

A persuasive paragraph is a type of writing that aims to persuade or convince the reader to take a particular action or adopt a particular viewpoint. The purpose of a persuasive paragraph is to present a compelling argument supported by evidence and logical reasoning that will convince the reader to agree with the writer's position. In persuasive writing, the writer takes a stand on a particular issue, and the goal is to sway the reader to see things from their perspective. Persuasive paragraphs are used in a variety of settings, including business, politics, advertising, and education. To write an effective persuasive paragraph, the writer must use strong evidence, compelling arguments, and persuasive language. It is essential to consider the target audience and their potential objections and address them in the paragraph. The structure of a persuasive paragraph typically follows a logical progression, beginning with a clear thesis statement and followed by supporting evidence and a compelling conclusion<sup>61</sup>.

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<sup>61</sup> McWhorter, *Successful College Writing: Skills-Strategies-Learning Styles*; Gerald Graff, Cathy Birkenstein, and Cyndee Maxwell, *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing* (Gildan Audio, 2014).

## **2. Elements of a Persuasive Paragraph: Logos, Ethos, and Pathos**

In persuasive writing, the use of logos, ethos, and pathos can be powerful tools to convince the reader to agree with the writer's point of view.

1. **Logos:** This refers to the use of logic and reasoning to support a persuasive argument. Logos is about presenting a clear and logical argument that is supported by evidence and reasoning. This could include using statistics, facts, and examples to support a particular point.
2. **Ethos:** This refers to the credibility and trustworthiness of the person making the persuasive argument. Ethos is about establishing oneself as a credible and trustworthy source of information. This could include citing one's credentials or expertise on a particular topic.
3. **Pathos:** This refers to the use of emotional appeals to persuade an audience. Pathos is about connecting with the audience on an emotional level and using that emotional connection to persuade them to agree with the argument being presented. This could include using anecdotes, personal stories, or vivid descriptions to elicit an emotional response from the audience.

In a persuasive paragraph, all three elements should be used in a balanced and effective way to make a convincing argument that resonates with the audience.

## **3. Writing a Strong Thesis Statement for a Persuasive Paragraph**

When writing a persuasive paragraph, a strong thesis statement is crucial. A thesis statement is a sentence that summarizes the main argument or point of the paragraph. It should be clear, concise, and focused on the specific topic being discussed. To write a strong thesis statement for a persuasive paragraph, consider the following tips:

1. **Be clear and specific:** The thesis statement should clearly state the writer's position on the issue being discussed. It should also be specific, avoiding vague or general statements.
2. **Use persuasive language:** The thesis statement should use language that is persuasive and convincing. This means using strong words and phrases that show the writer's conviction in their argument.

3. Make sure it is debatable: A good thesis statement should be debatable, meaning that it invites discussion and debate. It should not be a statement of fact that everyone already agrees on.
4. Address the opposing viewpoint: While the thesis statement should state the writer's position, it should also acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. This helps to establish credibility and shows that the writer has considered all sides of the issue.
5. Be concise: A strong thesis statement should be concise and to the point. It should not be too long or convoluted, as this can confuse the reader.

By following these tips, you can write a strong thesis statement for a persuasive paragraph that effectively communicates your position and persuades your audience.

#### **4. Developing Arguments and Counterarguments in a Persuasive Paragraph**

When writing a persuasive paragraph, it's essential to develop strong arguments that support your thesis statement. However, it's equally important to consider potential counterarguments that may be brought up by the opposing side. Developing counterarguments and addressing them in your paragraph can add credibility to your argument and show that you have considered all perspectives.

To develop strong arguments, start by brainstorming potential points that support your thesis statement. Look for evidence and facts that support your argument, and consider the perspective of your audience. What points may be most convincing to them?

Once you have developed your arguments, it's important to consider potential counterarguments. What points might the opposing side make, and how can you address them? This is where the elements of logos, ethos, and pathos can come in handy. Use logic and evidence to refute opposing points, appeal to ethics and credibility to build trust with your audience, and use emotional appeals to connect with them on a personal level.

When addressing counterarguments, it's important to do so respectfully and without attacking the opposing side. Show that you have considered their perspective, but ultimately, explain why your argument is more persuasive.

Overall, developing strong arguments and counterarguments is an important aspect of writing a persuasive paragraph. By considering all perspectives and presenting a well-rounded argument, you can build credibility and persuade your audience to agree with your thesis statement.

## **5. Using Evidence and Examples to Support Arguments in a Persuasive Paragraph**

In a persuasive paragraph, it's crucial to use evidence and examples to support your arguments. The evidence should be credible, relevant, and convincing to your audience. Here are some tips on how to effectively use evidence and examples in a persuasive paragraph:

1. **Research:** Start by conducting research on the topic you're writing about. Look for credible sources such as academic journals, books, and reputable websites to gather information and statistics that support your argument.
2. **Choose the best evidence:** Not all evidence is created equal. Select the most compelling evidence that supports your argument and use it to build a strong case. Avoid using weak or irrelevant evidence that could weaken your argument.
3. **Use examples:** Examples are a powerful way to illustrate your argument and make it more relatable to your audience. Use real-world examples that your readers can relate to and understand.
4. **Be specific:** Use specific details and facts to support your argument. This helps to add credibility to your argument and makes it more persuasive.
5. **Use credible sources:** Make sure the sources you use are credible and reliable. This helps to establish your credibility as a writer and makes your argument more convincing.

By using these tips, you can effectively use evidence and examples to support your arguments and make your persuasive paragraph more convincing to your audience.



## **6. Addressing Counterarguments in a Persuasive Paragraph**

Addressing counterarguments in a persuasive paragraph is an important aspect of persuasive writing. A counterargument is an opposing view to the writer's argument, and addressing it shows that the writer has considered different perspectives and is confident in their own argument. When addressing counterarguments, the writer should acknowledge and understand the opposing view, then provide evidence and reasoning to refute it. It is important to do this in a respectful and objective manner, avoiding personal attacks or emotional appeals.

One effective way to address counterarguments is to include them in the body of the paragraph, then follow with a strong rebuttal. This shows that the writer has thoroughly considered different perspectives and has thoughtfully responded to each one. Another approach is to address counterarguments in a separate paragraph, where the writer can provide more detailed evidence and analysis. This can be especially effective if the counterargument is complex or requires more explanation. Overall, addressing counterarguments in a persuasive paragraph strengthens the writer's argument and demonstrates their credibility and expertise on the topic.

## **7. Example of Persuasive Paragraphs**

Example 1: Smoking cigarettes should be banned in public places because it is harmful to non-smokers. Secondhand smoke can cause serious health problems such as lung cancer, heart disease, and asthma. Non-smokers have the right to breathe clean air, and banning smoking in public places is a way to protect that right. Additionally, smoking in public places can be a fire hazard and cause property damage. Banning smoking in public places would not only benefit the health of non-smokers but also help prevent potential accidents. In conclusion, the harmful effects of smoking and the right of non-smokers to breathe clean air are strong reasons for banning smoking in public places.

Explanation: This persuasive paragraph presents a clear argument for banning smoking in public places. It begins with a strong statement and provides evidence to support the argument. The writer acknowledges potential counterarguments related

to personal freedom but counters them with the right of non-smokers to breathe clean air. The conclusion restates the main points and reinforces the argument.

Example 2: College athletes should be paid for their participation in sports because they bring in millions of dollars for their universities. Many college sports programs generate large amounts of revenue from ticket sales, merchandise, and television contracts, but the athletes themselves receive little to no compensation. This is unfair, as the athletes are the ones who put in the hard work and dedication to make the program successful. Paying college athletes would also help prevent corruption and unethical practices, such as accepting bribes or breaking NCAA rules to receive money. In conclusion, college athletes deserve to be fairly compensated for their participation in sports, and paying them would help promote fairness and integrity in college sports programs.

Explanation: This persuasive paragraph presents an argument for paying college athletes. It uses evidence to support the argument that the athletes bring in revenue for their universities, and highlights the unfairness of the athletes receiving little to no compensation. The writer also acknowledges potential counterarguments related to amateurism and ethics, but counters them by arguing that paying athletes would help prevent corruption. The conclusion restates the main points and reinforces the argument.

## **8. Summary**

A persuasive paragraph is a piece of writing that aims to persuade the reader to take action or see things from the writer's perspective. It typically begins with a strong introduction that captures the reader's attention, presents the main argument, and previews the key points to be made. The body of the paragraph contains evidence and reasoning to support the argument, as well as potential counterarguments. The conclusion of the paragraph should summarize the main points, provide a call to action, use strong language, consider counterarguments, and end with a memorable statement. By following these guidelines, writers can create persuasive paragraphs that are effective in convincing their readers.

## **9. Reflection**

Write a persuasive paragraph on whether or not schools should require students to wear uniforms. Provide evidence and reasoning to support your argument.

## **10. Sample Answers**

Schools should require students to wear uniforms because it promotes a sense of community and equality among students. When everyone is dressed the same way, there is less focus on outward appearances and more emphasis on learning and academic performance. Uniforms can also be less expensive for families than buying multiple outfits to wear to school. Furthermore, wearing uniforms can reduce bullying and social pressures that are often associated with fashion choices. Students can feel more comfortable and confident in a uniform, and it can help create a positive school culture. In conclusion, schools should require students to wear uniforms to promote a sense of community, equality, and a positive school culture.

# Chapter 11

## Definition Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to write definition of terminologies
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Writing definition Paragraphs

### 1. Understanding the purpose of definition paragraphs

Understanding the purpose of definition paragraphs is essential in creating effective and clear writing. The purpose of definition paragraphs is to provide a clear and concise explanation of a specific term or concept. They are often used in academic writing to help readers understand the meaning of a particular term or concept within a specific context. Definition paragraphs are important because they help to establish a shared understanding between the writer and the reader. They provide the necessary background information for the reader to fully grasp the topic being discussed. Definition paragraphs can also help to clarify any ambiguity or confusion around a specific term or concept. In addition, definition paragraphs can serve as a foundation for further discussion or analysis. By clearly defining key terms and concepts at the outset, the writer can then delve deeper into the topic and explore various aspects of it. Overall, the purpose of definition paragraphs is to provide clear and concise explanations of key terms and concepts to ensure a shared understanding between the writer and the reader<sup>62</sup>.

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<sup>62</sup> Strunk Jr and White, *The Elements of Style Illustrated*; Alice Oshima and Ann Hogue, *Introduction to Academic Writing* (Pearson/Longman, 2007).

## **2. Identifying the key elements of a definition paragraph**

Identifying the key elements of a definition paragraph is important to ensure that the paragraph provides a clear and concise explanation of a specific term or concept.

There are several key elements that are typically included in a definition paragraph:

1. **The term or concept being defined:** The definition paragraph should begin with a clear and concise statement of the term or concept being defined. This statement should provide context and indicate the specific meaning of the term or concept within the scope of the writing.
2. **The category or class to which the term or concept belongs:** Defining a term or concept often involves identifying the category or class to which it belongs. This helps to clarify the meaning of the term or concept by placing it within a broader context.
3. **The distinguishing features of the term or concept:** Once the category or class has been identified, the definition paragraph should go on to describe the distinguishing features of the term or concept. This might include specific characteristics or properties that set it apart from other terms or concepts within the same category or class.
4. **Examples or illustrations:** To further clarify the meaning of the term or concept, the definition paragraph may include examples or illustrations that demonstrate how the term or concept is used in practice. This can help to make the definition more concrete and understandable to the reader.
5. **Limitations or qualifications:** In some cases, it may be necessary to include limitations or qualifications to the definition in order to avoid ambiguity or confusion. This might involve specifying certain conditions under which the definition applies, or indicating how the definition differs from similar terms or concepts.

Overall, identifying these key elements can help to ensure that a definition paragraph provides a clear and comprehensive explanation of a specific term or concept.

### **3. Strategies for effectively defining terms and concepts in your writing**

There are several strategies for effectively defining terms and concepts in your writing:

1. **Use clear and concise language:** When defining a term or concept, it is important to use language that is clear and concise. Avoid using technical jargon or overly complicated language that may confuse the reader.
2. **Provide context:** Providing context is important in helping the reader to understand the meaning of a term or concept. This might involve explaining the historical or cultural significance of the term, or indicating how it is used in a particular field or discipline.
3. **Use examples or illustrations:** Using examples or illustrations can help to make a definition more concrete and understandable to the reader. This might involve providing specific examples of how the term or concept is used in practice, or using analogies to help the reader understand the concept.
4. **Consider the audience:** When defining a term or concept, it is important to consider the audience and their level of familiarity with the topic. If the audience is unfamiliar with the topic, it may be necessary to provide more context and explanation.
5. **Be precise:** When defining a term or concept, it is important to be precise and avoid ambiguity. Use language that is specific and clear, and avoid using words or phrases that could be interpreted in multiple ways.
6. **Avoid circular definitions:** Circular definitions, where the term being defined is used in the definition itself, should be avoided. Instead, try to use language that is independent of the term being defined.

By using these strategies, you can effectively define terms and concepts in your writing and ensure that your readers have a clear understanding of the topic at hand.

### **4. Examples of well-crafted definition paragraphs**

Example 1:

Culture refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviors, and artifacts that characterize a group or society. Culture is often transmitted from generation to

generation through socialization, and can be expressed through various forms of art, literature, music, and other creative expressions. Cultural practices and traditions can vary widely across different groups and societies, and can influence everything from social norms and relationships to political beliefs and economic systems.

In this example, the definition paragraph provides a clear and comprehensive explanation of the term "culture," including its various components and the ways in which it is transmitted and expressed. The paragraph also provides examples of the different ways in which culture can influence social and political structures.

Example 2:

Intelligence refers to the ability to learn, reason, problem-solve, and adapt to new situations. Intelligence is often measured through various cognitive tests, such as IQ tests, which assess an individual's abilities in areas such as language, math, and spatial reasoning. However, intelligence can also be expressed through other forms of intelligence, such as emotional intelligence, social intelligence, and creative intelligence.

In this example, the definition paragraph provides a clear and concise explanation of the term "intelligence," including the different types of intelligence that exist beyond traditional measures of cognitive ability. The paragraph also provides examples of how intelligence can be expressed in different areas of life.

## **5. Common mistakes to avoid when writing definition paragraphs**

Here are some common mistakes to avoid when writing definition paragraphs:

1. Using circular definitions: Avoid using the term being defined within the definition itself. This creates a circular definition and does not provide any clarity to the reader.
2. Being too vague: Make sure your definition is specific and clear. Avoid using generalizations or overly broad statements that could be interpreted in multiple ways.

3. Overusing technical language: If you're writing for a general audience, avoid using too much technical jargon. Instead, use language that is accessible and easily understood by your readers.
4. Failing to provide context: It's important to provide context when defining a term or concept. Without context, the reader may not fully understand the significance or relevance of the term.
5. Providing incomplete definitions: Make sure your definition covers all the key elements of the term or concept. Don't leave out important details that could impact the reader's understanding.
6. Being too lengthy or wordy: While it's important to be specific and clear, avoid being overly wordy or using unnecessarily complex language. This can make the definition difficult to understand.

By avoiding these common mistakes, you can ensure that your definition paragraphs are clear, concise, and effective in helping the reader understand the term or concept being defined.

## **6. Using definition paragraphs to enhance clarity and coherence in your writing**

Definition paragraphs can be an effective tool for enhancing clarity and coherence in your writing. Here's how:

1. Provide clarity: Definition paragraphs can help to provide clarity by explaining complex terms or concepts in a clear and concise way. By defining key terms or concepts, you can ensure that your readers understand what you're talking about, even if they're not familiar with the subject matter.
2. Establish coherence: Definition paragraphs can also help to establish coherence by linking different parts of your writing together. By defining key terms or concepts at the beginning of your writing, you can establish a common understanding that will carry through the rest of your work.
3. Avoid confusion: Definition paragraphs can help to avoid confusion by ensuring that everyone is on the same page when it comes to key terms or concepts. This can prevent misunderstandings or misinterpretations that could derail your writing.



4. Demonstrate expertise: Definition paragraphs can also demonstrate your expertise on a subject. By providing clear and concise definitions of key terms or concepts, you can show your readers that you have a deep understanding of the subject matter.
5. Enhance readability: Finally, definition paragraphs can enhance readability by breaking up dense or technical writing with more accessible language. By providing clear definitions that are easy to understand, you can make your writing more engaging and accessible to a wider audience.

Overall, definition paragraphs can be a powerful tool for enhancing clarity and coherence in your writing. By defining key terms and concepts, you can ensure that your readers understand what you're talking about, establish a common understanding, avoid confusion, demonstrate your expertise, and enhance readability.

## **7. The role of definition paragraphs in persuasive writing**

Definition paragraphs can be an effective tool for enhancing clarity and coherence in your writing. Here's how:

**Provide clarity:** Definition paragraphs can help to provide clarity by explaining complex terms or concepts in a clear and concise way. By defining key terms or concepts, you can ensure that your readers understand what you're talking about, even if they're not familiar with the subject matter.

**Establish coherence:** Definition paragraphs can also help to establish coherence by linking different parts of your writing together. By defining key terms or concepts at the beginning of your writing, you can establish a common understanding that will carry through the rest of your work.

**Avoid confusion:** Definition paragraphs can help to avoid confusion by ensuring that everyone is on the same page when it comes to key terms or concepts. This can prevent misunderstandings or misinterpretations that could derail your writing.

**Demonstrate expertise:** Definition paragraphs can also demonstrate your expertise on a subject. By providing clear and concise definitions of key terms or concepts, you can show your readers that you have a deep understanding of the subject matter.

**Enhance readability:** Finally, definition paragraphs can enhance readability by breaking up dense or technical writing with more accessible language. By providing clear definitions that are easy to understand,

you can make your writing more engaging and accessible to a wider audience. Overall, definition paragraphs can be a powerful tool for enhancing clarity and coherence in your writing. By defining key terms and concepts, you can ensure that your readers understand what you're talking about, establish a common understanding, avoid confusion, demonstrate your expertise, and enhance readability.

## **8. Best practices for revising and refining definition paragraphs in your writing**

Definition paragraphs can play a crucial role in persuasive writing. Here's how:

1. **Establishing common ground:** When making a persuasive argument, it's important to establish common ground with your readers. Definition paragraphs can help you achieve this by defining key terms or concepts that may be unfamiliar to your audience. By providing clear definitions, you can ensure that everyone is on the same page and understands the basic premise of your argument.
2. **Framing the argument:** Definition paragraphs can also help to frame your argument in a clear and concise way. By defining key terms or concepts at the beginning of your writing, you can set the stage for the rest of your argument and ensure that your readers understand the context in which you're making your points.
3. **Strengthening the argument:** Well-crafted definition paragraphs can also strengthen your persuasive argument. By defining key terms or concepts in a precise and persuasive way, you can provide evidence and support for your argument, helping to convince your readers that your position is valid and well-reasoned.
4. **Addressing counterarguments:** Definition paragraphs can also help you address potential counterarguments. By defining key terms or concepts in a way that anticipates potential objections or misunderstandings, you can pre-emptively address these issues and make your argument more persuasive.

Overall, definition paragraphs can be a powerful tool in persuasive writing. They can help you establish common ground, frame your argument, strengthen your points, and address potential counterarguments. By including well-crafted definition paragraphs in your writing, you can make a more convincing and persuasive argument.

## **9. Summary**

Definition paragraphs are a type of paragraph that define a term or concept in a clear and concise way. They can be used to enhance clarity and coherence in writing by providing a common understanding of key terms or concepts. In persuasive writing, definition paragraphs can help establish common ground with readers, frame the argument, strengthen the points being made, and address potential counterarguments. Effective definition paragraphs identify key elements of a term or concept, use strategies to define terms and concepts effectively, avoid common mistakes, and enhance readability. Examples of well-crafted definition paragraphs can provide guidance on how to effectively define terms and concepts in writing.

## **10. Reflection**

Choose a term or concept related to TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) that you are interested in or have learned about. Write a definition paragraph that defines the term or concept in a clear and concise way. Make sure to include the key elements of a definition paragraph, use effective strategies for defining terms and concepts, and avoid common mistakes. Finally, provide an example of a well-crafted definition paragraph related to your chosen term or concept.

## **11. Sample Answers**

Term:

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT)

Definition Paragraph:

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) is an approach to language teaching that focuses on the use of real-world tasks as the basis for language instruction. In TBLT, students are given tasks to complete that require them to use the language in meaningful and authentic ways, rather than simply memorizing vocabulary and grammar rules. The tasks are designed to be challenging but achievable, and they are often related to the students' interests or needs. TBLT is based on the idea that

language learning is most effective when it is integrated with real-life tasks, and that students learn best when they are engaged in meaningful communication.

Example of a well-crafted definition paragraph:

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) is an innovative approach to language teaching that has gained popularity in recent years. In TBLT, students are presented with authentic, real-world tasks that require them to use the language in a practical and meaningful way. For example, students may be asked to plan a trip, write a letter of complaint, or participate in a simulated business meeting. By engaging in these types of tasks, students are able to develop their language skills in a more natural and holistic way, rather than simply memorizing isolated grammar rules and vocabulary words. TBLT is an effective way to help students develop their communication skills and achieve their language learning goals.

# Chapter 12

## Opinion Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to write about opinions
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Opinion Paragraphs

### 1. Understanding the purpose of opinion paragraphs

Opinion paragraphs are a type of paragraph in which the writer expresses their personal views, beliefs, or attitudes towards a particular topic, issue, or subject. The purpose of an opinion paragraph is to persuade the reader to agree with the writer's point of view, or to encourage them to consider the topic from a different perspective. Opinion paragraphs are often used in persuasive writing, such as in essays or articles, to argue a particular position or viewpoint. They may also be used in other types of writing, such as in personal narratives or reflective writing, to express the writer's emotions or reactions to a particular event or experience.

In opinion paragraphs, the writer's own subjective thoughts and feelings are emphasized over objective facts and evidence. However, it is still important for the writer to provide some evidence or examples to support their opinion and to convince the reader of the validity of their viewpoint. Overall, the purpose of opinion paragraphs is to express the writer's personal perspective on a particular issue or topic, and to convince the reader to see the topic from their point of view<sup>63</sup>.

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<sup>63</sup> Williams and Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace*; Oshima and Hogue, *Introduction to Academic Writing*.

## **2. Key elements of a well-crafted opinion paragraph**

A well-crafted opinion paragraph typically contains the following key elements:

1. A clear thesis statement: The opening sentence of the paragraph should clearly state the writer's opinion or main idea.
2. Supporting evidence or reasons: The writer should provide evidence or reasons to support their opinion or argument. This could be in the form of personal experience, expert opinions, statistics, or other factual information.
3. Use of persuasive language: The writer should use persuasive language to make their argument compelling and convincing. This includes using strong adjectives and verbs, rhetorical devices, and emotional appeals.
4. Acknowledgment of counterarguments: The writer should address potential counterarguments to their opinion and provide a rebuttal to those counterarguments.
5. Coherence and cohesion: The paragraph should be well-organized, with each sentence flowing logically from the previous one. The use of transition words and phrases can help to connect ideas and improve the coherence of the paragraph.
6. Clarity and concision: The writer should strive for clarity and concision in their writing, avoiding vague or ambiguous language and unnecessary words or phrases.

Overall, a well-crafted opinion paragraph should clearly express the writer's opinion or argument, provide evidence to support that opinion, address potential counterarguments, and be persuasive and coherent in its presentation.

## **3. Strategies for effectively expressing opinions in writing**

There are several strategies that can be used to effectively express opinions in writing. These include:

1. Be clear and concise: Use simple and clear language to express your opinions. Avoid using jargon or overly complex terms that might confuse the reader.
2. Use personal anecdotes: Personal anecdotes can be a powerful tool to express your opinions and connect with the reader on a more emotional level.

3. Use rhetorical devices: Rhetorical devices such as metaphors, similes, and analogies can be used to make your writing more persuasive and engaging.
4. Provide evidence: Support your opinions with facts, statistics, and other forms of evidence. This will help to strengthen your arguments and make your opinions more convincing. Use persuasive language: Use strong verbs and adjectives to make your writing more persuasive. Words such as "powerful", "compelling", and "unforgettable" can help to make your opinions more memorable.
5. Use transitional words: Use transitional words and phrases such as "furthermore", "in addition", and "however" to help your writing flow smoothly and connect your ideas.
6. Consider your audience: Think about who your audience is and what their views and opinions might be. This will help you to tailor your writing to their needs and make your opinions more persuasive.

Overall, these strategies can help you to effectively express your opinions in writing and make your arguments more convincing and persuasive.

#### **4. Common mistakes to avoid in opinion paragraphs**

There are several common mistakes to avoid when writing opinion paragraphs. These include:

1. Being too vague: Avoid being too vague or general in your opinions. Be specific and provide examples to support your argument.
2. Being too emotional: While emotions can be effective in persuading readers, too much emotional language can detract from the credibility of your argument.
3. Failing to acknowledge counterarguments: Address potential counterarguments to your opinions and provide a rebuttal to those counterarguments.
4. Using weak evidence: Use strong and reliable evidence to support your opinions. Avoid using weak or biased sources that could undermine your argument.
5. Being too one-sided: While it is important to express your opinion clearly, be open to other points of view and acknowledge opposing arguments.
6. Failing to consider the audience: Consider the knowledge and background of your audience and tailor your writing to their needs and interests.

7. Being inconsistent or contradictory: Ensure that your opinions are consistent and do not contradict each other. This can weaken the credibility of your argument.

By avoiding these common mistakes, you can create more effective opinion paragraphs that are persuasive, well-supported, and engaging for your readers.

## **5. Using evidence and examples to support opinions**

Using evidence and examples to support opinions is an important part of writing persuasive and effective opinion paragraphs. Here are some tips on how to effectively use evidence and examples:

1. Choose relevant evidence: The evidence you use to support your opinions should be relevant to your argument. Make sure the evidence you choose is directly related to the point you are trying to make.
2. Use credible sources: Use sources that are reliable and trustworthy. This can include peer-reviewed articles, government publications, and reputable news outlets.
3. Provide specific examples: Use specific examples to illustrate your opinions. This can help to make your argument more relatable and understandable for your readers.
4. Use statistics: Use statistics to back up your opinions. Statistics can help to provide a more objective view of a topic and make your argument more persuasive.
5. Explain the significance: After providing evidence or examples, explain why they are significant and how they support your opinion. This can help to clarify your argument and make it more convincing.
6. Acknowledge counterarguments: When using evidence and examples to support your opinions, it is important to acknowledge counterarguments and address them. This can help to strengthen your argument and make it more persuasive.

By using evidence and examples effectively, you can support your opinions and make your argument more persuasive and engaging for your readers.



## **6. Structuring opinion paragraphs for clarity and coherence**

Structuring opinion paragraphs is important to ensure clarity and coherence. Here are some tips on how to structure your opinion paragraphs effectively:

1. **Start with a clear thesis statement:** Your thesis statement should clearly state your opinion and the main argument you will be making in the paragraph.
2. **Provide supporting evidence and examples:** Use evidence and examples to support your thesis statement. Be sure to choose evidence and examples that are relevant and credible.
3. **Use topic sentences:** Each paragraph should have a topic sentence that relates back to the thesis statement. This helps to ensure that the paragraph stays focused and on topic.
4. **Organize your ideas logically:** Organize your ideas in a logical order. This can be chronological, cause and effect, or based on importance.
5. **Use transitions:** Use transitions between sentences and paragraphs to help connect your ideas and make your argument more coherent.
6. **Address counterarguments:** Address potential counterarguments and provide a rebuttal to strengthen your argument.
7. **Conclude with a strong summary:** Conclude the paragraph with a strong summary that restates the thesis statement and the main supporting points.

By structuring your opinion paragraphs effectively, you can make your argument clearer and more coherent, and better engage your readers.

## **7. Examples of well-written opinion paragraphs**

Example 1:

In my opinion, social media has both positive and negative effects on society. On the one hand, social media provides a platform for individuals to connect with others and share their thoughts and ideas on a global scale. This can lead to a sense of community and an increase in awareness of social issues. However, on the other hand, social media can also promote harmful behaviors such as cyberbullying and addiction. It is important to recognize both the benefits and drawbacks of social media in order to use it responsibly and effectively.

Explanation:

This opinion paragraph includes a clear thesis statement that presents the writer's viewpoint on the topic of social media. The paragraph then goes on to present two main points, each with specific examples and explanations to support them. This shows that the writer has considered multiple perspectives on the topic and has developed a nuanced understanding of its complexities.

Example 2:

I strongly believe that animal testing should be banned worldwide. While some argue that animal testing is necessary for medical research, there are many alternative methods that are both more effective and ethical. Additionally, animal testing can cause immense suffering and harm to innocent creatures, and it is not a reliable predictor of human reactions to drugs or treatments. It is time for society to recognize the cruelty and ineffectiveness of animal testing and to invest in more humane and effective research methods.

Explanation: This opinion paragraph has a clear and forceful thesis statement that presents the writer's viewpoint on the topic of animal testing. The paragraph then provides two main points to support the thesis, each with specific examples and reasoning. The writer also addresses counterarguments to their viewpoint, which strengthens the overall argument and demonstrates critical thinking.

Example 3:

In my view, distance learning is an effective and convenient way to receive an education. Online courses offer flexibility and accessibility for individuals who may not have the time or resources to attend traditional classes. Furthermore, distance learning can promote self-discipline and independence, as students must take responsibility for their own learning. While some argue that online education is less effective than in-person instruction, studies have shown that it can be just as effective, if not more so, when properly implemented.

Explanation:

This opinion paragraph starts with a clear thesis statement that presents the writer's viewpoint on the topic of distance learning. The paragraph then provides two main points to support the thesis, each with specific examples and evidence. The writer also acknowledges counterarguments and addresses them in a logical and respectful manner. This demonstrates that the writer has carefully considered different perspectives on the topic and has developed a well-rounded argument.

## **8. The role of opinion paragraphs in persuasive writing**

Opinion paragraphs play an essential role in persuasive writing. They allow the writer to express their perspective on a particular issue or topic and persuade the reader to adopt a similar viewpoint. In persuasive writing, opinion paragraphs are often used to present arguments and counterarguments, as well as to provide supporting evidence and examples to back up the writer's claims. Opinion paragraphs in persuasive writing should be carefully crafted to ensure that they are convincing and compelling. Writers should take the time to research and gather relevant information on the topic they are writing about, and use this information to support their opinions. They should also be mindful of their target audience and use language and evidence that is likely to resonate with them. A persuasive opinion paragraph typically follows a logical structure, beginning with an introduction that states the writer's opinion on the topic. The body of the paragraph should then provide evidence and examples to support the opinion, followed by a conclusion that summarizes the main points and restates the opinion.

## **9. Balancing objectivity and subjectivity in opinion writing**

Balancing objectivity and subjectivity in opinion writing can be a challenging task, as the writer needs to express their personal opinions while also remaining objective and providing evidence to support their claims. It is essential to strike a balance between the two to ensure that the reader understands and respects the writer's perspective while also considering other viewpoints. One way to balance objectivity and subjectivity in opinion writing is to present the facts objectively and provide evidence to support the writer's opinion. The writer should avoid exaggerating or

manipulating the evidence to fit their perspective, as this can come across as biased and undermine the credibility of the argument.

Another strategy is to acknowledge alternative viewpoints and address them in the opinion paragraph. This shows that the writer has considered multiple perspectives and strengthens their argument by demonstrating that they have a well-rounded understanding of the topic. It is also important to use language that is respectful and acknowledges the complexity of the issue. The writer should avoid using inflammatory language or personal attacks and instead focus on presenting their argument in a clear and concise manner. Overall, balancing objectivity and subjectivity in opinion writing requires careful consideration of the evidence and a willingness to acknowledge alternative viewpoints. By presenting a well-reasoned and well-supported argument, the writer can effectively communicate their perspective while also respecting the opinions of others.

#### **10. Editing and revising opinion paragraphs for improved clarity and impact**

Editing and revising opinion paragraphs is crucial for improving their clarity and impact. Here are some tips for editing and revising opinion paragraphs:

1. Check for coherence: Ensure that the opinion paragraph flows logically and smoothly. Each sentence and idea should be connected to the next, and the reader should be able to follow the writer's argument without confusion.
2. Clarify the thesis statement: Make sure the thesis statement is clear and concise, and that it accurately reflects the writer's main point.
3. Check for evidence: Ensure that the writer has provided enough evidence to support their opinion. Check that the evidence is accurate, relevant, and reliable.
4. Remove unnecessary words and phrases: Delete any unnecessary words or phrases that add little or no value to the paragraph.
5. Use active voice: Active voice can make the paragraph more concise and direct, which can help to improve its impact. Avoid repetition: Check for repetition of words or ideas, and remove them if they add no value to the paragraph.
6. Consider the audience: Consider the intended audience and revise the paragraph to suit their needs and expectations.

7. Proofread: Finally, proofread the opinion paragraph for errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

By following these tips, the writer can improve the clarity and impact of their opinion paragraph, making it more effective in persuading the reader to accept their point of view.

## **11. Summary**

Opinion paragraphs are used to express the writer's viewpoint on a particular topic or issue. The purpose of opinion paragraphs is to persuade the reader to accept the writer's opinion or point of view. A well-crafted opinion paragraph should include a clear thesis statement, relevant evidence to support the writer's opinion, and a logical flow of ideas. Strategies for effectively expressing opinions in writing include balancing objectivity and subjectivity, using evidence and examples to support opinions, and structuring opinion paragraphs for clarity and coherence. Common mistakes to avoid include lack of evidence, biased language, and use of vague or confusing language. Finally, editing and revising opinion paragraphs is crucial for improving their clarity and impact.

## **12. Reflection**

Write an opinion paragraph expressing your view on whether social media has a positive or negative impact on society. Support your opinion with at least two reasons.

## **13. Sample Answers**

Example:

In my opinion, social media has a negative impact on society. Firstly, social media can be a breeding ground for cyberbullying and harassment, which can have devastating effects on individuals' mental health and well-being. Secondly, social media often promotes unrealistic and unhealthy beauty standards, which can lead to body shaming and low self-esteem among users. While social media does have some positive aspects, such as facilitating communication and connecting people across

distances, the negative effects outweigh any potential benefits. Therefore, I believe that steps should be taken to address these issues, such as implementing stronger regulations to combat cyberbullying and promoting body positivity on social media platforms.

Explanation:

The sample answer provides a clear opinion on the impact of social media on society and supports it with two reasons. The first reason discusses the negative impact of cyberbullying and harassment on individuals' mental health and well-being. The second reason highlights the promotion of unhealthy beauty standards on social media, which can lead to body shaming and low self-esteem among users. Additionally, the paragraph acknowledges that social media does have some positive aspects, but ultimately argues that the negative effects outweigh any potential benefits. The writer also suggests possible solutions to address the issues they have identified, such as implementing stronger regulations and promoting body positivity on social media platforms. Overall, the paragraph is well-structured and effectively conveys the writer's opinion and supporting reasons in a clear and concise manner.

# Chapter 13

## Future Plan Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to write about future plans
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	future plan Paragraphs

### 1. Purpose of a Future Plan Paragraph

The purpose of a Future Plan paragraph in paragraph writing is to articulate a writer's goals and plans for achieving those goals. This type of paragraph is commonly found in personal statements, cover letters, and other types of writing that require the writer to communicate their future aspirations and how they plan to achieve them. A Future Plan paragraph allows the writer to demonstrate their ambition, motivation, and potential to achieve their goals. It can also show how the writer's plans fit into the broader context of their life, work, or academic pursuits. Overall, the purpose of a Future Plan paragraph is to persuade the reader that the writer has clear goals, a concrete plan for achieving those goals, and the motivation and potential to succeed. By effectively communicating these aspects of their future plans, the writer can strengthen their overall argument or narrative and increase the likelihood of achieving their goals<sup>64</sup>.

### 2. Components of a Future Plan Paragraph

The Components of a Future Plan Paragraph are the key elements that should be included in order to effectively communicate a writer's goals and plans for achieving

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<sup>64</sup> Williams and Bizup, *Lessons in Clarity and Grace*.

those goals. A Future Plan paragraph should typically include the following components:

1. Clear and specific goals: The writer should identify their goals as clearly and specifically as possible. This includes both short-term and long-term goals. It is important to avoid general or vague statements about goals, as this can weaken the overall persuasiveness of the paragraph.
2. Realistic plans for achieving those goals: The writer should also describe their plans for achieving their goals. This should include specific steps or strategies that they will take to make progress towards their goals. It is important to be realistic and feasible in outlining plans.
3. Reflection on the writer's motivation and values: The writer should demonstrate their motivation and values that are driving their goals and plans. This can include describing their personal values or experiences that are shaping their goals.
4. Connection to the broader context or purpose of the writing: The Future Plan paragraph should connect the writer's goals and plans to the broader context or purpose of the writing. For example, if the writer is crafting a personal statement for college or job applications, they should connect their goals and plans to their desire to pursue a particular field of study or career path.

By including these key components in a Future Plan paragraph, the writer can communicate their aspirations and how they plan to achieve them in a clear, persuasive, and effective manner.

### **3. Strategies for Writing a Strong Future Plan Paragraph**

Strategies for Writing a Strong Future Plan Paragraph involve the use of several techniques that help in creating an effective and persuasive paragraph. The following are some of the strategies that are recommended by different authors:

1. Be specific and concrete

In order to create a persuasive Future Plan paragraph, it is important to be as specific and concrete as possible. According to Williams, a good paragraph should be able to answer the questions of who, what, when, where, and how. By being



specific, the writer can demonstrate their commitment to their goals and their ability to achieve them.

2. Use active voice

Using active voice is an effective strategy for creating a strong Future Plan paragraph. According to the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC), using active voice helps to make the writing more direct and clearer. It also helps to create a sense of immediacy and urgency, which can be important in persuading the reader.

3. Provide evidence of past accomplishments

Providing evidence of past accomplishments is another strategy for creating a strong Future Plan paragraph. According to Duncan<sup>65</sup>, this can include academic achievements, work experience, volunteer work, or other relevant experiences. By demonstrating past accomplishments, the writer can strengthen their credibility and demonstrate their potential for future success.

4. Show the connection between goals and plans

The University of North Carolina Writing Center suggests that it is important to show the connection between goals and plans in a Future Plan paragraph. By demonstrating how their plans will help them achieve their goals, the writer can make a more persuasive argument for why they are the right candidate for a job or program.

5. Use concise and clear language

Finally, the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) suggests using concise and clear language as a strategy for creating a strong Future Plan paragraph. This includes avoiding unnecessary words or phrases and using clear, simple language that is easy to understand<sup>66</sup>.

#### **4. Common Mistakes to Avoid in Future Plan Paragraphs**

When writing a Future Plan paragraph, there are several common mistakes that writers should avoid. These mistakes can weaken the persuasiveness and impact of the paragraph. Here are some common mistakes to avoid:

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<sup>65</sup> Duncan, "Understanding the Paragraph and Paragraphing."

<sup>66</sup> Joanna Sample, "English Department Style Guide Explaining APA Style John Q. Public Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg," n.d.; OWL Purdue, "APA Formatting and Style Guide" (Web, 2015).

1. Being vague or general: One common mistake is being too vague or general when describing goals and plans. This can make it difficult for the reader to understand what the writer is trying to achieve. It is important to be specific and concrete in outlining goals and plans.
2. Not connecting goals and plans: Another mistake is not connecting goals and plans. The Future Plan paragraph should clearly demonstrate how the writer's goals and plans are related. This can help the reader understand the writer's motivation and make the argument more persuasive.
3. Focusing too much on the past: While it is important to provide evidence of past accomplishments, it is also important not to focus too much on the past. The Future Plan paragraph should focus primarily on the writer's goals and plans for the future.
4. Using overly formal language: Using overly formal language can make the writing sound stiff and impersonal. It is important to use clear, concise language that is easy to understand.
5. Forgetting to proofread: Finally, it is important to proofread the Future Plan paragraph carefully. Spelling and grammar errors can detract from the persuasiveness of the paragraph.

By avoiding these common mistakes, writers can create more effective and persuasive Future Plan paragraphs that help them achieve their goals.

## **5. Examples of Effective Future Plan Paragraphs**

Example 1:

"My long-term goal is to become a teacher, and I have a specific plan to achieve it. First, I plan to earn a bachelor's degree in Education from XYZ University. During my undergraduate studies, I will also participate in volunteer work with local schools and after-school programs to gain valuable experience working with children. After graduation, I plan to pursue a Master's degree in Education and become certified to teach in the state. Ultimately, I hope to become a teacher in a low-income community, where I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of my students."

Explanation:

This Future Plan paragraph is effective because it is specific and concrete. The writer clearly outlines their long-term goal of becoming a teacher and provides a detailed plan for achieving it. The paragraph demonstrates a clear connection between the writer's goals and their plans, and it provides evidence of the writer's commitment and potential for success.

Example 2:

"My future plans involve pursuing a career in the field of environmental science. I am interested in working with organizations that focus on sustainable development and renewable energy. I plan to start by earning a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from ABC University, and then gaining experience through internships and research projects. My ultimate goal is to work for a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable practices and helps communities' transition to cleaner energy sources."

Explanation:

This Future Plan paragraph is effective because it is concise and clear. The writer outlines their interest in the field of environmental science and provides a specific goal of working for a non-profit organization that focuses on sustainable practices. The paragraph also demonstrates the writer's knowledge and commitment to the field, which strengthens their argument.

Example 3:

"After working in the healthcare industry for several years, I have developed a passion for public health and disease prevention. My future plans involve pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health from XYZ University. I am particularly interested in researching the relationship between diet and chronic disease, and I hope to use my education to make a positive impact on public health policy. I am confident that my experience in the healthcare industry and my dedication to this field make me a strong candidate for this program."

Explanation:

This Future Plan paragraph is effective because it demonstrates the writer's passion for public health and provides a clear goal of pursuing a Master's degree in the field. The paragraph also provides evidence of the writer's experience in the healthcare industry, which strengthens their credibility. Additionally, the writer demonstrates a specific interest in research, which can help to differentiate them from other candidates.

## **6. How to Connect Your Future Plans to Your Goals and Ambitions**

Connecting your future plans to your goals and ambitions is an important aspect of writing a persuasive and effective Future Plan paragraph. Here are some strategies to help you connect your future plans to your goals and ambitions:

1. **Identify your goals and ambitions:** Before you can connect your future plans to your goals and ambitions, you need to identify what those goals and ambitions are. Consider what you hope to achieve in your career, personal life, or other areas of your life. This will help you to develop a clear understanding of what you want to accomplish in the future.
2. **Develop a plan:** Once you have identified your goals and ambitions, you need to develop a plan to achieve them. This plan should include specific steps that you will take to reach your goals, such as earning a degree, gaining experience in a particular field, or pursuing a specific career path.
3. **Show how your plan aligns with your goals and ambitions:** When writing your Future Plan paragraph, it is important to demonstrate how your plan aligns with your goals and ambitions. This can help to make your argument more persuasive and demonstrate your commitment to your goals. For example, you might explain how earning a degree in a particular field will help you to achieve your long-term career goals.
4. **Highlight your strengths and experiences:** To strengthen your argument, you should highlight your strengths and experiences that are relevant to your goals and ambitions. This can help to demonstrate your potential for success and differentiate you from other candidates. For example, if your goal is to become a

successful entrepreneur, you might highlight your experience in business or your leadership skills.

5. Be specific and concrete: Finally, it is important to be specific and concrete when describing your goals and plans. This can help to make your argument more persuasive and demonstrate your commitment to achieving your goals. Use concrete examples and provide specific details about your plans and goals to make your Future Plan paragraph more compelling.

By connecting your future plans to your goals and ambitions, you can create a persuasive and effective Future Plan paragraph that demonstrates your potential for success and commitment to achieving your goals.

## **7. Tips for Tailoring Your Future Plan Paragraph to Different Audiences**

When writing a Future Plan paragraph, it is important to consider your audience and tailor your writing to their needs and interests. Here are some tips for tailoring your Future Plan paragraph to different audiences:

1. Consider the context: Before you start writing your Future Plan paragraph, consider the context in which you will be presenting it. For example, if you are writing a college application essay, you might want to focus on your academic and career goals. If you are applying for a job, you might want to emphasize your professional goals and how they align with the company's mission and values.
2. Use language that resonates with your audience: When writing your Future Plan paragraph, use language that resonates with your audience. For example, if you are writing for a business audience, you might want to use terms and concepts that are familiar to that audience, such as return on investment or market share.
3. Emphasize your relevant skills and experience: Depending on your audience, you may need to emphasize different skills and experiences in your Future Plan paragraph. For example, if you are applying for a job in a specific field, you might want to highlight your relevant experience in that field.
4. Show how your goals align with their needs: To make your Future Plan paragraph more persuasive, you should demonstrate how your goals and plans align with the needs and interests of your audience. For example, if you are applying for a job,

you might explain how your skills and experience can help the company achieve its goals.

5. Be concise and to the point: Finally, it is important to be concise and to the point when tailoring your Future Plan paragraph to different audiences. Your audience is likely to have limited time and attention, so you want to make sure that your message is clear and easy to understand. By tailoring your Future Plan paragraph to different audiences, you can increase the chances of your message being heard and understood.

By considering the context, using language that resonates with your audience, emphasizing your relevant skills and experience, showing how your goals align with their needs, and being concise and to the point, you can create a persuasive and effective Future Plan paragraph that resonates with your audience.

## **8. Using Future Plan Paragraphs in Different Writing Contexts**

Future Plan paragraphs can be used in a variety of writing contexts, including academic, professional, and personal writing. Here are some examples of how Future Plan paragraphs can be used in different writing contexts:

1. Academic Writing: Future Plan paragraphs can be used in academic writing, such as college application essays, personal statements, or research proposals. In these contexts, you might discuss your academic goals, career aspirations, and how you plan to use your education to achieve your future goals.
2. Professional Writing: Future Plan paragraphs can also be used in professional writing, such as job applications or business plans. In these contexts, you might discuss your professional goals, how you plan to advance in your career, and how you will contribute to the success of the company or organization.
3. Personal Writing: Future Plan paragraphs can also be used in personal writing, such as journaling or goal-setting exercises. In these contexts, you might discuss your personal goals, such as improving your health or learning a new skill, and how you plan to achieve them.

Regardless of the writing context, Future Plan paragraphs should be persuasive and demonstrate your commitment to achieving your goals. They should also be tailored to the specific audience and writing context, using language and examples that resonate with that audience. By using Future Plan paragraphs in different writing contexts, you can clarify your goals, identify the steps needed to achieve them, and communicate your vision to others.

## **9. Summary**

A Future Plan paragraph is a type of writing that outlines an individual's goals and plans for the future. It serves a variety of purposes, including demonstrating the writer's ambition, highlighting their skills and experience, and persuading an audience of their potential for success. Effective Future Plan paragraphs typically have clear components, including a statement of purpose, a discussion of the writer's goals, and an explanation of how they plan to achieve those goals. Strategies for writing a strong Future Plan paragraph include being specific and concrete, using vivid language, and connecting the writer's goals to their values and motivations. Common mistakes to avoid when writing a Future Plan paragraph include being vague or generic, using overly formal or technical language, and failing to connect the writer's goals to their audience's needs and interests. Finally, Future Plan paragraphs can be tailored to different writing contexts, such as academic, professional, or personal writing, by considering the specific needs and interests of the audience, emphasizing relevant skills and experience, and using language and examples that resonate with that audience.

## **10. Reflection**

Write a Future Plan paragraph outlining your goals and plans for the next five years. Be specific and concrete, and explain how you plan to achieve your goals.

## **11. Sample Answers**

Over the next ten years, I plan to build a successful career as a software developer. My immediate goal is to complete my computer science degree and gain experience through internships and part-time work. Once I have graduated, I plan to seek out a

job at a tech company where I can continue to develop my skills and learn from experienced professionals. As I progress in my career, I plan to specialize in a specific area of software development, such as web development or mobile app development. I will also seek out opportunities to learn new technologies and stay up-to-date with industry trends. My ultimate goal is to become a senior software developer or team lead, where I can mentor and train new developers and contribute to the success of the company. To achieve this goal, I plan to continue to develop my leadership skills, take on challenging projects, and seek out opportunities for professional development.

Explanation: In this Future Plan paragraph, the writer outlines their career goals and plans for the next ten years. They are specific and concrete in their goals, mentioning their desire to complete their degree, gain experience, specialize in a specific area, and eventually become a senior software developer or team lead. They also explain how they plan to achieve these goals, including seeking out opportunities for professional development and mentorship. This paragraph is effective because it demonstrates the writer's ambition and commitment to their career goals, as well as their understanding of the steps required to achieve them.



# Chapter 14

## Understanding Paragraphs

Learning Objectives	Students are able to write about personal feelings
Time Allocation	2 × 45”
Method	Lectures and Discussions Individual and Group Activities Audio and Visual Aids Writing Assignments and Exercises Quizzes and Tests
Media	Handout, Whiteboard, Board marker, LCD
Topic Discussion	Personal Feeling Paragraphs

### 1. Understanding the Purpose of Personal Feeling Paragraphs

Personal feeling paragraphs are a type of writing that allows writers to express their emotions, thoughts, and feelings on a particular topic or issue. According to Devitt<sup>67</sup>, personal feeling paragraphs are often used in personal narratives, memoirs, and personal essays to convey a writer's personal experience and perspective on a particular topic. The purpose of personal feeling paragraphs is to create a connection with the reader and evoke an emotional response. Personal feeling paragraphs can be powerful tools for persuasion, as they allow the writer to appeal to the reader's emotions and personal experiences. In addition to creating a connection with the reader, personal feeling paragraphs also allow the writer to explore their own thoughts and feelings on a particular topic. Personal feeling paragraphs can be therapeutic, allowing the writer to process and understand their own emotions and experiences. However, it is important to note that personal feeling paragraphs should not be used in all types of writing. Personal feeling paragraphs are best used in genres that allow for personal expression, such as personal essays or memoirs. In other types of writing, such as academic essays or business reports, personal feeling paragraphs

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<sup>67</sup> AJ DEVITT, "Writing Genres. Carbondale: Southern Illinois," 2004.

may not be appropriate or effective. In summary, personal feeling paragraphs serve to create a connection with the reader, evoke an emotional response, and allow the writer to explore their own thoughts and feelings on a particular topic. They are most effective in genres that allow for personal expression, and should be used judiciously in other types of writing.

## **2. Components of a Personal Feeling Paragraph**

A personal feeling paragraph is composed of several key components that work together to convey the writer's emotions and thoughts on a particular topic. The paragraph should begin with an opening sentence that clearly expresses the main idea or emotion the writer wishes to convey. This opening sentence sets the tone for the paragraph and provides the reader with a sense of what the writer is feeling.

Specific details or examples that support the main idea or emotion should also be included in the paragraph. These details can help to make the emotional experience feel more real and immediate for the reader. It is important to strike a balance between using enough detail and overwhelming the reader with too much information. The details should provide enough information to convey the writer's emotions and thoughts, but not so much detail that it becomes distracting or confusing.

A concluding sentence should wrap up the paragraph and connect it to the overall theme or message of the writing. This sentence should summarize the main idea or emotion expressed in the paragraph and provide a sense of closure for the reader. Sensory language and figurative language can also be used to enhance the emotional impact of the paragraph.

Sensory language helps to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind, while figurative language can help to convey complex emotions in a way that is easily understandable and relatable.

In summary, a personal feeling paragraph should include an opening sentence that clearly expresses the main idea or emotion, specific details or examples that support

the main idea or emotion, and a concluding sentence that wraps up the paragraph and connects it to the overall theme or message of the writing. Sensory language and figurative language can also be used to enhance the emotional impact of the paragraph, while striking a balance between providing enough detail and not overwhelming the reader with too much information.

### **3. Strategies for Writing Effective Personal Feeling Paragraphs**

Followings are some strategies for writing effective personal feeling paragraphs:

1. **Be honest and genuine:** The most effective personal feeling paragraphs are those that are authentic and genuine. Be honest about your emotions and feelings, and don't be afraid to share your vulnerabilities. This will help to create an emotional connection with the reader and make your writing more relatable.
2. **Use sensory language:** Sensory language can help to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind and make your writing more engaging. Use descriptive words that appeal to the five senses to help the reader understand the emotions and experiences you are describing.
3. **Use figurative language:** Figurative language can help to convey complex emotions in a way that is easily understandable and relatable. Metaphors, similes, and other types of figurative language can help to paint a picture of your emotions and experiences in a way that is memorable and impactful.
4. **Use anecdotes and examples:** Anecdotes and examples can help to illustrate your emotions and experiences in a concrete way, making your writing more relatable and engaging. Choose anecdotes and examples that are relevant to the emotions and experiences you are describing, and use them to provide specific details that help the reader understand what you are feeling.
5. **Be concise and focused:** Personal feeling paragraphs should be focused and to the point. Avoid using too much detail or going off on tangents that are not relevant to the main emotion or experience you are trying to convey. Be concise and focus on the emotions and experiences that are most important to your writing.

By following these strategies, you can create personal feeling paragraphs that are authentic, engaging, and impactful. Remember to focus on the emotions and experiences that are most important to your writing, and use language that is vivid, descriptive, and relatable.

#### **4. Common Mistakes to Avoid in Personal Feeling Paragraphs**

Following are some common mistakes to avoid when writing personal feeling paragraphs:

1. **Being too vague:** Personal feeling paragraphs should be specific and focused. Avoid using vague language that doesn't give the reader a clear understanding of what you are feeling or experiencing. Be specific about the emotions you are feeling and the experiences that led to those emotions.
2. **Overusing clichés:** Clichés can be tempting to use when writing personal feeling paragraphs, but they can also make your writing feel generic and unoriginal. Instead of relying on clichés, use language that is unique and specific to your own experiences.
3. **Focusing too much on emotions:** While personal feeling paragraphs are about emotions, it's important to also include context and details about the experiences that led to those emotions. Avoid simply stating how you feel without providing any context or explanation.
4. **Being too self-centered:** Personal feeling paragraphs should be about your own experiences and emotions, but it's also important to consider the reader. Avoid being too self-centered in your writing and consider how your experiences and emotions might be relatable to others.
5. **Not revising and editing:** As with any type of writing, it's important to revise and edit your personal feeling paragraphs. This can help you to refine your language, avoid mistakes, and ensure that your writing is clear and concise.

By avoiding these common mistakes, you can create personal feeling paragraphs that are engaging, relatable, and impactful. Remember to focus on specific emotions and experiences, use unique language, provide context and details, consider the reader, and revise and edit your writing.

## 5. Examples of Effective Personal Feeling Paragraphs

Effective personal feeling paragraphs are those that are specific, relatable, and well-written. Here are a few examples:

Example 1:

"I've always been a bit of an introvert, but moving to a new city for college has really challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone. At first, I felt overwhelmed and anxious in social situations, but I've slowly started to make new friends and build a support network. It's not always easy, but I'm proud of myself for pushing through the discomfort and taking risks."

In this example, the writer shares their personal experience of being an introvert and struggling to make friends in a new environment. The emotions of feeling overwhelmed and anxious are specific and relatable, and the writer also provides context and details about their experience. The paragraph ends on a positive note, showing growth and resilience.

Example 2:

"I've been struggling with my mental health for a while now, and it's been difficult to talk about with others. I worry that people will judge me or think less of me because of my struggles. But I've realized that keeping my feelings bottled up isn't helping me, and I need to be more open and honest with those around me. It's scary, but I'm hopeful that by sharing my struggles, I can find the support and understanding I need."

In this example, the writer discusses their personal struggle with mental health and the fear and anxiety that comes with sharing those struggles with others. The emotions of worry and fear are specific and relatable, and the writer also shares their realization of the importance of being open and honest. The paragraph ends on a note of hope, showing a willingness to seek support and overcome the challenges.

Overall, effective personal feeling paragraphs are those that are honest, specific, and relatable. They provide context and details about the writer's experiences and emotions, while also being mindful of the reader and their potential reactions. By sharing personal experiences and emotions in a clear and concise manner, writers can create powerful connections with their audience.

## **6. Tips for Tailoring Personal Feeling Paragraphs to Different Audiences**

Tailoring personal feeling paragraphs to different audiences can help to ensure that the message resonates with the reader and achieves the desired effect. Here are a few tips:

1. Consider the audience's perspective: Before writing a personal feeling paragraph, it's important to consider the audience's perspective. Think about their background, experiences, and potential biases, and use that information to tailor the language and tone of the paragraph.
2. Use appropriate language: Depending on the audience, the language used in a personal feeling paragraph may need to be adjusted. For example, if the audience is a group of professionals, the language may need to be more formal and technical. On the other hand, if the audience is more casual or informal, the language can be more conversational and relatable.
3. Provide context: When writing a personal feeling paragraph, it's important to provide enough context so that the reader can understand the writer's perspective. This may involve providing background information or explaining why the emotions being discussed are relevant to the topic at hand.
4. Be mindful of potential reactions: Personal feeling paragraphs can be powerful, but they can also be divisive or trigger negative reactions. When tailoring a personal feeling paragraph to a specific audience, it's important to consider their potential reactions and adjust the language and tone accordingly.
5. Use examples: Including specific examples in a personal feeling paragraph can help to make the emotions being discussed more relatable and understandable. Examples can also help to illustrate the writer's point and provide context for the reader.

By tailoring personal feeling paragraphs to different audiences, writers can create more effective and impactful messages. Whether writing for a professional audience, a casual audience, or something in between, taking the time to consider the audience's perspective and adjust the language and tone accordingly can make all the difference.

## **7. Using Personal Feeling Paragraphs in Different Writing Contexts**

Personal feeling paragraphs can be used in a variety of writing contexts, from creative writing to academic essays to professional emails. Here are a few examples of how personal feeling paragraphs can be used in different writing contexts:

1. **Creative Writing:** In creative writing, personal feeling paragraphs can help to bring a character to life and make their emotions more relatable to the reader. By using sensory details and vivid language, writers can create emotional depth and resonance in their work.
2. **Academic Essays:** In academic essays, personal feeling paragraphs can be used to provide personal insights or reflections on a topic. For example, a writer might include a personal feeling paragraph at the end of an essay to summarize their thoughts on the subject and reflect on what they have learned.
3. **Professional Emails:** In professional emails, personal feeling paragraphs can help to establish rapport with the recipient and create a more personal connection. For example, a writer might include a brief personal feeling paragraph at the beginning of an email to express gratitude or to acknowledge a shared experience.
4. **Personal Statements:** In personal statements for college or job applications, personal feeling paragraphs can be used to highlight the writer's motivations and goals. By sharing personal experiences and feelings, writers can demonstrate their unique perspective and show how they are a good fit for the opportunity.

Regardless of the writing context, personal feeling paragraphs can help to create a more authentic and engaging message. By using personal experiences and emotions to connect with the reader, writers can make their message more memorable and impactful.

## **8. Summary of Personal Feeling Paragraph Writing**

Personal feeling paragraphs are a powerful tool in writing that can help to connect with the reader on an emotional level. These paragraphs can be used in a variety of writing contexts, including creative writing, academic essays, professional emails, and personal statements. When writing a personal feeling paragraph, it's important to understand its purpose and components. The purpose of a personal feeling paragraph is to convey emotions and connect with the reader. The components of a personal feeling paragraph include a topic sentence that introduces the emotion, supporting sentences that provide details and examples, and a concluding sentence that summarizes the emotion or provides a transition to the next paragraph. To write an effective personal feeling paragraph, it's important to use vivid and sensory language, be honest and authentic, and tailor the paragraph to the intended audience. It's also important to avoid common mistakes such as being too vague or melodramatic, and to proofread carefully for errors. Examples of effective personal feeling paragraphs can help to inspire and guide writers in crafting their own paragraphs. It's important to remember that personal feeling paragraphs should be used appropriately and strategically, and should not be overused or abused. Overall, personal feeling paragraphs can be a powerful tool in writing that can help to connect with the reader on a deeper emotional level, creating a more impactful and memorable message.

## **9. Reflection**

Write a personal feeling paragraph about a time when you felt proud of yourself. Make sure to include a clear topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence that summarizes your emotion.

## **10. Sample Answers**

I remember the day I received my acceptance letter to my dream university. When I first opened the letter, my heart was pounding in my chest and my palms were sweating. As I read the words that I had been accepted, tears streamed down my face. I felt like I had accomplished something truly amazing. All of the hard work and dedication that I had put in over the years had finally paid off, and I was going to be



able to attend the school that I had been dreaming of for so long. It was a moment of pure pride and accomplishment, and I will never forget that feeling.

Explanation: The sample answer includes all the necessary components of a personal feeling paragraph. The topic sentence clearly introduces the emotion of pride and the specific event that sparked the feeling. The supporting details provide vivid and sensory language to help the reader experience the moment along with the writer. The concluding sentence effectively summarizes the emotion and brings closure to the paragraph. The writer also uses specific examples to help the reader understand and connect with the emotion of pride. The use of sensory language, such as "my heart was pounding" and "tears streamed down my face," adds depth and richness to the paragraph. Additionally, the writer's personal connection to the event and the emotion shines through in their authentic and honest writing. Overall, this personal feeling paragraph is effective because it connects with the reader on an emotional level and provides a clear and memorable message.



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# Author's Biography

Jaelani Jaelani is currently a lecturer for Linguistics in the *Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan* (Faculty of Teacher Trainings) at Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Mataram, Indonesia. Prior to his recent appointment at UIN Mataram, he was a curriculum developer for *Lembaga Pengembangan Pendidikan (LPP NTB)* (Educational Development Institute) and a co-founder of *Yayasan Saling Jaga Indonesia (Relasi)*. Jaelani received his B.Ed. degree from Mataram University, Indonesia, dan his Master in Applied Linguistics from the University of Melbourne, Australia. Jaelani published several papers in preferred Journals and participated in a range of forums on Linguistics and Language Learning. His current research interests include development and educational, sociocultural, and language pragmatic issues.



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA RI  
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**RENCANA PEMBELAJARAN SEMESTER (RPS)**  
(Permen Ristekdikti Nomor 44 Tahun 2015 Pasal 12)

<b>No. Dokumen :</b> <i>Doc. No.</i>		<b>No. Revisi:</b> <i>Rev. No.</i>		<b>Tanggal Penyusunan:</b> <i>July, 4<sup>th</sup> 2022</i> <i>Date</i>	
<b>Matakuliah:</b> Curriculum Development <i>Course: Curriculum Development</i>		<b>Semester:</b> III (TIGA) <i>Semester: 3<sup>rd</sup></i>		<b>Bobot (Sks):</b> 2 SKS <i>Credit Point: 2 CPs</i>	
				<b>Kode MK:</b> TBI0315 <i>Code: TBI0315</i>	
<b>Program Studi:</b> Tadris Bahasa Inggris <i>Study Program</i>			<b>Dosen Pengampu :</b> Jaelani, M. App. Ling <i>Lecturer</i>		
<b>Capaian Pembelajaran Lulusan (CPL)</b> <i>Learning Outcome</i>		<p><b>a. Ranah Sikap</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Menginternalisasi nilai, norma, dan etika akademik. <i>Internalize academic values, norms, and ethics.</i></li> <li>2. Menunjukkan sikap bertanggungjawab atas pekerjaan di bidang keahliannya secara mandiri. <i>Demonstrate independent responsible attitudes towards works in students' area of expertise.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>b. Ranah Pengetahuan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Menguasai konsep umum, prinsip, dan teknik komunikasi untuk tujuan spesifik. <i>Mastering general concepts, principles, and communication techniques for specific purposes.</i></li> <li>2. Menguasai konsep integritas akademik secara umum dan konsep plagiarisme secara khusus, dalam hal jenis plagiarisme, konsekuensi pelanggaran, dan upaya pencegahannya. <i>Mastering the concept of academic integrity (in general), the concept of plagiarism (in more specific), types of plagiarism, the consequences of its violations, and strategies to prevent them.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>c. Ranah Keterampilan</b> <b>Keterampilan Umum:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mampu menerapkan pemikiran logis, kritis, sistematis, dan inovatif dalam konteks pengembangan atau implementasi ilmu pengetahuan dan teknologi yang memperhatikan dan menerapkan nilai humaniora yang sesuai dengan bidang keahliannya. <i>Able to apply logical, critical, systematic, and innovative thinking in the context of the development or implementation of science and technology that pays attention and applies humanities values in accordance with their areas of expertise.</i></li> </ol>			

	<p>2. Mampu menggunakan minimal satu bahasa internasional untuk komunikasi lisan dan tulis. <i>Able to use at least one international language for oral and written communication.</i></p> <p><b>Keterampilan Khusus:</b></p> <p>1. Mampu menggunakan teknologi mutakhir yang tersedia dalam melaksanakan pekerjaan. <i>Able to use the latest available technology to finish the works.</i></p>
<b>Capaian Pembelajaran Matakuliah (CPMK)</b> <i>Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)</i>	<p>CPMK 1: able to identify different types of paragraph.</p> <p>CPMK 2: able to identify the structure and lexicogrammatical features of paragraphs.</p> <p>CPMK 3: Able to write paragraph contextually</p>
<b>Deskripsi Matakuliah</b> <i>Course Description</i>	<i>This course is designed to introduce students to basic understanding of paragraph writing. It starts with generic structure found almost in any paragraph then proceeds to different types of paragraphs. In the end, students are guided to a thematic development of a paragraph. During teaching and learning process, they will engage in writing task completion using the ubiquitous process approach entailing drafting, revising, and editing.</i>

(1) Minggu Ke-	(2) Kemampuan Akhir Tiap Tahap Pembelajaran (Kompetensi Dasar)	(3) Bahan Kajian (Materi)	(4) Metode Pembelajaran	(5) Alokasi Waktu	(6) Pengalaman Belajar Siswa (Deskripsi Tugas)	(7) Kriteria Penilaian (Indikator)	(8) Bobot Nilai
1	Demonstrate the understanding of goals and assessments of the course	Course syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecturing</li> <li>Question and answer (Q-A)</li> <li>Discussion</li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation</li> <li>Quiz</li> </ul>	Students' participation (responses to teachers' and peers' questions and answers)	1%
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the generic structure of a paragraph</li> <li>Identify different types of paragraph</li> </ul>	Basic organization and types of a paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecturing</li> <li>Question and answer (Q-A)</li> <li>Discussion</li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation</li> <li>Quiz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the three main parts of a paragraph</li> <li>Determine obligatory and optional parts of a paragraph</li> <li>Classify a text into particular type of paragraph</li> </ul>	1%
3	Authentically write a descriptive paragraph using examples and details	Descriptive paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecturing</li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation</li> <li>Quiz</li> </ul>	Identify generic structure of	1%

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question and answer (Q-A)</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>			descriptive paragraph ✓ Identify lexicogrammatical features of a descriptive paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write short descriptive paragraph</li> </ul>	
4	✓ Authentically write expository paragraph using chronology and process	Expository paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecturing</li> <li>• Question and answer (Q-A)</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Quiz</li> </ul>	✓ Identify generic structure of expository paragraph ✓ Identify lexicogrammatical features of an expository paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write short expository paragraph</li> </ul>	1%
5	Authentically write expository paragraph using cause and effect	Expository paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecturing</li> <li>• Question and answer (Q-A)</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Quiz</li> </ul>	✓ Identify generic structure of expository paragraph ✓ Identify lexicogrammatical features of an expository paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write short expository paragraph</li> </ul>	1%
6	✓ Authentically write expository paragraph using comparison and contrast	Expository paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecturing</li> <li>• Question and answer (Q-A)</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Quiz</li> </ul>	✓ Identify generic structure of expository paragraph ✓ Identify lexicogrammatical features of an expository paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write short expository paragraph</li> </ul>	1%
7	Appropriately use enumerator in a paragraph	Enumeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecturing</li> <li>• Question and answer (Q-A)</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Quiz</li> </ul>	✓ Identify types of enumerator Write examples of enumerator in a	1%



						paragraph	
8	Authentically write a persuasive paragraph	Persuasive Paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lecturing</i></li> <li>• <i>Question and answer (Q-A)</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Participation</i></li> <li>• <i>Quiz</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify generic structure of persuasive paragraph</li> <li>✓ Identify lexicogrammatical features of a persuasive paragraph</li> <li>• Write short persuasive paragraph</li> </ul>	1%
9	MID TEST/Assignment 1*						25%
10	Authentically write a narrative paragraph	Narrative Paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lecturing</i></li> <li>• <i>Question and answer (Q-A)</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Participation</i></li> <li>• <i>Quiz</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify generic structure of narrative paragraph</li> <li>✓ Identify lexicogrammatical features of a narrative paragraph</li> <li>• Write short narrative paragraph</li> </ul>	1%
11	Write definition of terminologies	Writing definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lecturing</i></li> <li>• <i>Question and answer (Q-A)</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Participation</i></li> <li>• <i>Quiz</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Distinguish formal from extended definition</li> <li>✓ Identify components of a definition</li> <li>• Write definition of a term accurately</li> </ul>	1%
12 & 13	Write about opinions	Opinions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lecturing</i></li> <li>• <i>Question and answer (Q-A)</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul>	2 x 100"	<i>Participation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify commonly used expressions in an opinion paragraph</li> <li>• Write a simple paragraph about opinion for a given topic</li> </ul>	2%
14	Write about future plans	Future Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lecturing</i></li> <li>• <i>Question and answer (Q-A)</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<i>Participation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify commonly used expressions in a paragraph about future plans</li> </ul>	2%

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a simple paragraph about future plans for a given topic</li> </ul>	
15	Write about personal feelings	Personal Feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lecturing</i></li> <li>• <i>Question and answer (Q-A)</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul>	2 x 50"	<i>Participation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify commonly used expressions in a paragraph about personal feelings</li> <li>• Write a simple paragraph about personal feelings for a given topic</li> </ul>	
16	FINAL TEST/Assignment 2*						35%

\*Tentative

#### DAFTAR REFERENSI

Utama:
<i>Main:</i>
1. Paragraph Development: A Guide for Students of English as a Second Language by Martin L Arnaudet, and Mary Ellen Barret (PD)
Pendukung:
<i>Supporting:</i>
1. Paragraph Writing: From Sentence to Paragraph by Dorothy Zemach and Carlos Islam (PW)

## PENILAIAN

1. Aspek Penilaian
  - a) Sikap
  - b) Pengetahuan
  - c) Keterampilan

2. **Evaluation/Assessment**

*Students' grades are based on:*

Register	14%
Assignment 1	26%
Presentation	20%
Assignment 2	40%

Penilaian akhir hasil belajar mahasiswa dinyatakan dalam bentuk nilai huruf yang dikonversi dari nilai angka dan kategori sebagai berikut:

Nilai Angka	Nilai Huruf	Bobot	Predikat
91-100	A+	4.00	Cumlaude
86-90	A	3.75	Sangat Memuaskan
81-85	A-	3.50	Memuaskan
76-80	B+	3.25	Sangat Baik
71-75	B	3.00	Baik
66-70	B-	2.75	Cukup Baik
61-65	C+	2.50	Lebih Dari Cukup
56-60	C	2.25	Cukup
< 55	D	Tidak Lulus	Kurang

## VERIFIKASI RPS

Mengetahui  
Wakil Dekan I



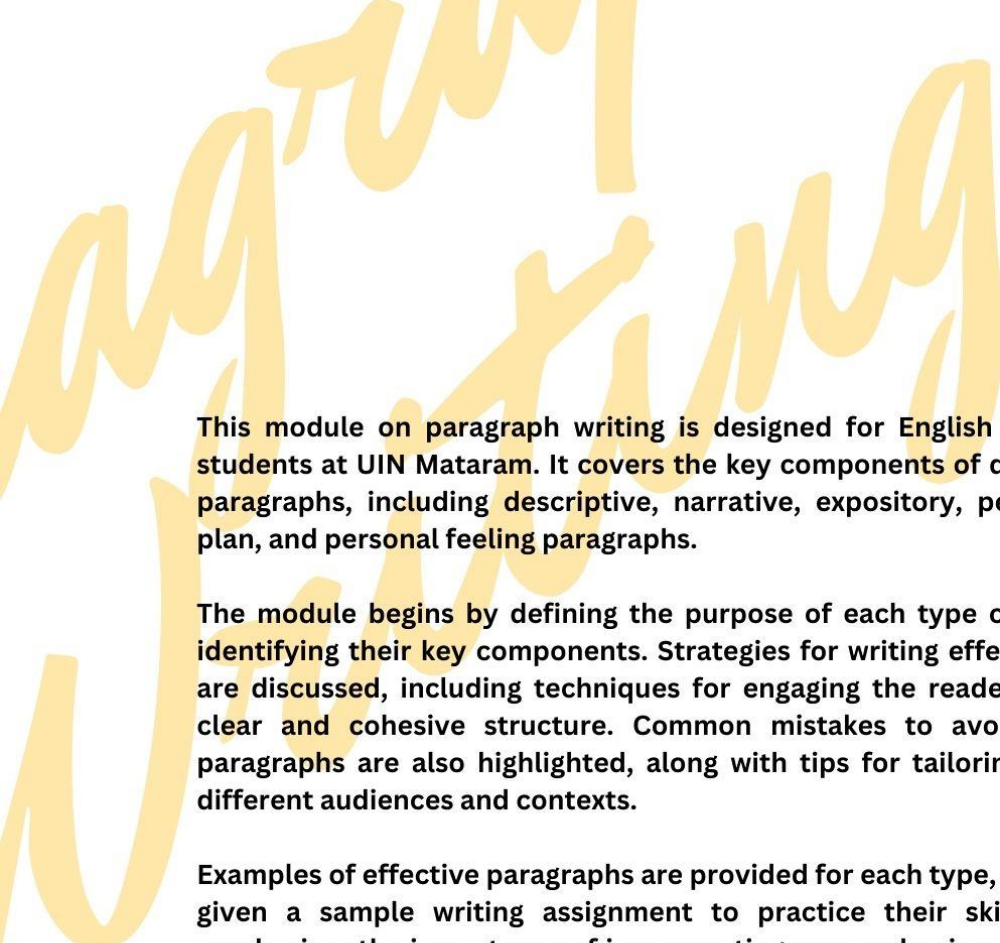
Dr. Saparudin, M. Ag.  
NIP. 19781015207032022

Ketua Jurusan

Dr. Ika Rama Suhandra, S.Pd. M.Pd.  
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Mataram, 4 Juli 2022  
Dosen Pengampu MK

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**This module on paragraph writing is designed for English teacher training students at UIN Mataram. It covers the key components of different types of paragraphs, including descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, future plan, and personal feeling paragraphs.**

**The module begins by defining the purpose of each type of paragraph and identifying their key components. Strategies for writing effective paragraphs are discussed, including techniques for engaging the reader and creating a clear and cohesive structure. Common mistakes to avoid when writing paragraphs are also highlighted, along with tips for tailoring paragraphs to different audiences and contexts.**

**Examples of effective paragraphs are provided for each type, and students are given a sample writing assignment to practice their skills. The module emphasizes the importance of incorporating personal voice and emotion into paragraphs, and provides guidance on how to effectively use descriptive language to convey feeling and meaning.**

**Throughout the module, the focus is on building strong writing skills that will serve students well in their future careers as English teachers. By the end of the module, students will have a solid understanding of how to write effective paragraphs that engage and connect with their readers.**

