

# Paragraph Writing

## Paragraph Development Lecture (2)



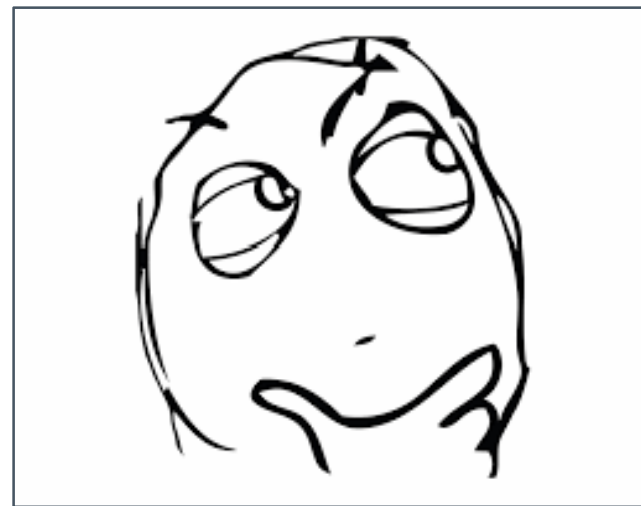
# *What forms a paragraph?*



## *Warm Up*

1- What is a paragraph?

2-How many sentences does it include?



- A paragraph is a group of related sentences that discusses usually **one** main idea.
- A paragraph may stand alone or be a part of **an essay**.
- The number of lines is unimportant as long as the main idea is **well developed and supported** in the paragraph.

# What are the different types of paragraphs?

<b>Descriptive Paragraph</b>	The writer <b>describes</b> a person, a place, or a thing.
<b>Example Paragraph</b>	The writer explains a topic by giving <b>examples</b>
<b>Process Paragraph</b>	The writer explains how to do something <b>step by step</b>
<b>Opinion Paragraph</b>	The writer expresses his or her <b>feelings, ideas, and opinions</b> about a topic
<b>Narrative Paragraph</b>	The writer tells a <b>story</b>

# Formatting a Paragraph (page 3)

**Margins**

**Title**

Dolphins

**indentation**

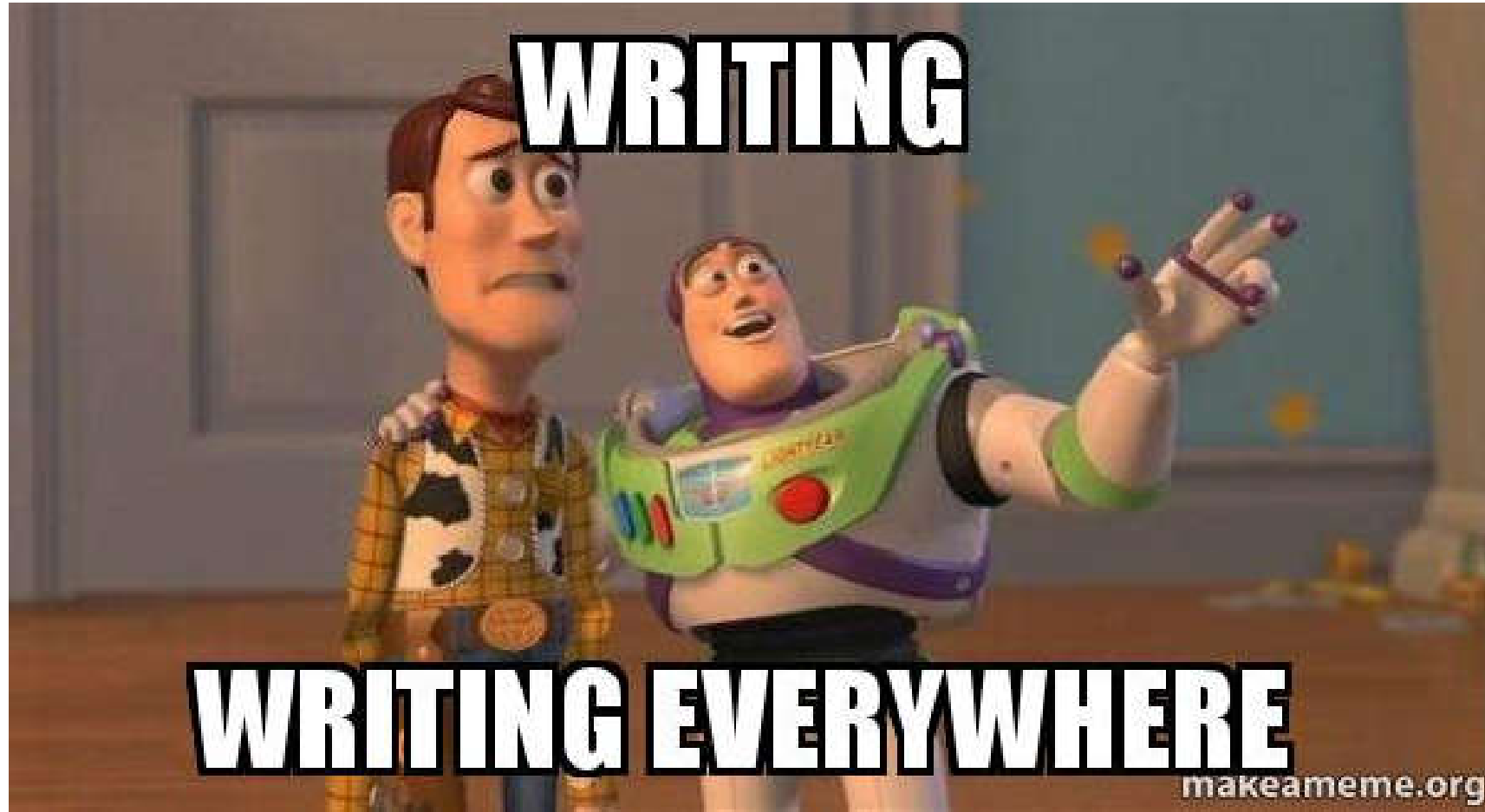
**Double spacing**

**Connected sentences**

<sup>1</sup>Dolphins are interesting because they display almost human behavior at times. <sup>2</sup>For example, they display the human emotions of joy and sadness. <sup>3</sup>During training, when they do something correctly, they squeal excitedly and race toward their trainer. <sup>4</sup>When they make a mistake, however, they droop noticeably and mope around their pool. <sup>5</sup>Furthermore, they help each other when they are in trouble. <sup>6</sup>If one is sick, it sends out a message, and others in the area swim to help it. <sup>7</sup>They push it to the surface of the water so that it can breathe. <sup>8</sup>They stay with it for days or weeks until it recovers or dies. <sup>9</sup>They have also helped trapped or lost whales navigate their way safely out to the open sea. <sup>10</sup>They are so intelligent and helpful, in fact, that the U.S. Navy is training them to become underwater bomb disposal experts.



# Developing a Paragraph



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**Topic Sentence**  
**Introductory Sentence**  
**(Introduction)**

**Supporting**  
**Sentences**

**Concluding**  
**Sentence**



## Topic Sentence

- It is the first or second sentence.
- It introduces a new idea.
- It presents the topic and explains what the writer will say about the topic.

It has:

(A)- a topic (the subject of the paragraph)

(B)- a controlling Idea (what the paragraph will say about the topic. It is called the controlling idea because it controls or limits the topic to a very specific point or points). In other words, it is the explanation of the topic.

# Topic Sentence

1a. Some marriages are a union of two families.  
TOPIC CONTROLLING IDEA

1b. Some marriages are a union of two individuals.  
TOPIC CONTROLLING IDEA

2a. Some weddings are very elaborate.  
TOPIC CONTROLLING IDEA

2b. Some weddings are very simple.  
TOPIC CONTROLLING IDEA

2c. Some weddings take place in unusual locations.  
TOPIC CONTROLLING IDEA

# Topic Sentence

**Not Too General, Not Too Specific** A topic sentence is neither too general nor too specific.

**TOO GENERAL**

Marriage is an event in a person's life.

This is too general because there is no specific controlling idea. The reader has no idea what the paragraph will say about marriage except that it happens.

**TOO SPECIFIC**

The average age for people in the United States to marry in the year 2000 was 25 for a woman and 27 for a man.

This is much too specific. It gives details that should come later in the paragraph.

**Good**

The average age for people in the United States to marry has changed in the past 100 years.

This is a good topic sentence because it gives the reader a hint that the paragraph will discuss changes in the ages when people marry. A good topic sentence tells something about the contents of the paragraph but none of the details.

## Writing Topic Sentences

When you write a topic sentence, remember these three points:

1. A topic sentence must be a complete sentence, with a subject and a verb.
2. A topic sentence should be neither too general nor too specific. If it is too general, the reader cannot tell exactly what the paragraph is going to discuss. If it is too specific, the writer will not have anything to write about in the rest of the paragraph.
3. A topic sentence should not have unrelated controlling ideas.

# Stop and check p5



## **Supporting Sentences:**

**They add information about the topic and the controlling idea. They can include:**

- **Definitions**
- **Explanations**
- **Examples**



**Stop and check p.8, 9**

## Concluding Sentence:

- Final sentence of a paragraph
- Reminds the reader of the topic and the controlling idea.
- Restates /summarizes/rephrases the main idea

### Topic sentence

I love the color red.

### Concluding sentence

I like to live life in a strong way, so I think I will always admire the color red.

- **Do not end your paragraph with a new idea!**

## Concluding Sentence:

### 1. Conclusion Signals

Followed by a Comma	No Comma
<p>1. All in all, In brief, In conclusion, Indeed, In short,</p> <p>In summary, To conclude, To summarize, To sum up,</p>	<p>2. It is clear that . . . These examples show that . . . You can see that . . .</p>
<p>1. To summarize, Japanese food is both beautiful to look at and delicious to eat. Indeed, many U.S. cities and regions have a special food for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>2. It is clear that fad diets don't work and may even damage a dieter's health.</p>	

**Stop and check p.10,11**

Use words or phrases in the box to complete the sentences.

concluding sentence

indented

main idea

paragraph

supporting sentences

topic

topic sentence

- a. The ..... is usually the first sentence in a ..... . It gives the ..... and the .....
- b. The first sentence of a paragraph can be .....
- c. The ..... come after the topic sentence, and they explain the topic sentence.
- d. The ..... comes at the end of a paragraph.



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*See you next week!*

