



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: Grade 8	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: August 2021
Worksheet No: 12	Topic: Paragraph Writing	Note: English Notebook/Reference Material

A quote to reflect on before you start writing your notes☺

“Have something to say, and say it as clearly as you can. That is the only secret.”

-Matthew Arnold

What is a Paragraph?

A paragraph is a collection of sentences that are put together to form a single main idea. Paragraphs can be short or long; however, they always have a beginning, middle and an end.

Basic features of a Paragraph

- A paragraph usually has a ***title***.
- The opening sentence or sentences form the introduction of the paragraph. Such a sentence is known as the ***topical sentence***.
- The topical sentence introduces the ***topic, theme, subject or idea*** that the paragraph is based on.
- The main body of the paragraph consists of ***supporting ideas***.
- Supporting ideas provide more information about the main topic presented in the ***opening sentence***.
- However, these ideas must not stray from the topic mentioned in the opening of the paragraph.
- The sentences that form the ***body of the paragraph*** must be closely related to each other.
- Variety in the body of the paragraph should be brought about by using ***different types and kinds of sentences***.
- Thus, the sentences in a paragraph must follow the ***principle of unity***.
- All the sentences must be presented in a ***logical order*** or sequence since they develop the ***idea***, they are often arranged in the order of importance.
- The ***concluding or closing sentence*** must sum up the entire paragraph. It reflects the idea presented in the topical sentence.

Topic Sentence is usually the first sentence in the paragraph, but not always. It usually introduces the main idea and can sometimes also introduce the details.

There are different types of Topic sentences:

1. **General Topic sentence**- e.g. Candy is delicious
2. **Clueing topic sentence** gives the main idea of the paragraph. Gives hints about what is in the details using clue words. e.g. Candy is delicious for three reasons.
3. **Specific topic sentence** gives the main idea of the paragraph while giving exact details in the order it appears in the paragraph. e.g. Candy is delicious because it is sweet, it comes in many different flavours and also because it is only allowed on special occasions.

The Process of writing a paragraph has 3 parts:

1. **Pre-writing:** This involves warming up your brain through reading, thinking, talking and brainstorming
2. **Writing:** This involves the topic sentence, the supporting sentences (signal words, coherence, facts, examples, experiences, quotations and order) and the conclusion
3. **Revising the checklist:** See if you have the topic sentence, cross out sentences without coherence, check sentence order, add new ideas and examples to support the topic sentence, check that the signal words guide the reader well, check punctuation, grammar and spellings.

Sample Paragraph

Changes in the Family

Changes in our society in recent years have weakened family life. First of all, today's mothers spend much less time with their children. A generation ago, most houses got by on Dad's paycheck, and Mom stayed home. Now many mothers work, and their children attend an after school program, stay with a neighbor, or go home to an empty house. Another change is that families no longer eat together. In the past, Mom would be home and fix a full dinner –salad, pot roast, potatoes, and vegetables, with homemade cake or pie to top it off. Dinner today is more likely to be takeout food or TV dinners eaten at home, or fast food eaten out, with different members of the family eating at different times. Finally, television has taken the place of family conversation and togetherness. Back when there were meals together, family members would have a chance to eat together, talk with each other, and share event of the day in a leisurely manner. But now families are more likely to be looking at the TV set than talking to one another. Many homes even have several TV sets, which people watch in separate rooms. Clearly, modern life is a challenge to family life.

WRITING TASK:

As part of the 75th Anniversary celebrations of India's Independence Day (Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav), this Paragraph writing activity is about '**Places related to the freedom struggle**'.

Choose and write a paragraph of 200-250 words on any 2 of the topics for writing given below:

1. The Importance of Sabarmati Ashram
2. A visit to the historic Jallianwala Baugh
3. Lessons to learn from the Dandi March
4. A place of historical importance (related to the freedom struggle) in my state (why it was iconic and what events/ people are associated with it)



You may use the resource links below for reference:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1_Dm1ZjRAM- Dandi March- Salt Satyagraha

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lYpgHP7hjjg>- Jallianwala Bagh

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2bgds-KtzE> – Sabarmati Ashram