

STUDENT TOOL

Paragraph Writing

NAME: _____

PARAGRAPH

A paragraph is a group of sentences that communicate an idea. The sentences are organized around a central topic.

A PARAGRAPH has three parts:

- the topic sentence,
- supporting details,
- and the concluding sentence.

TOPIC SENTENCE

The topic sentence is the first sentence in a paragraph. It introduces the paragraph's main idea and tells the reader what your paragraph will be about. It should be a simple summary that clearly shares your thoughts.

SUPPORTING DETAILS

The supporting details come after the topic sentence. They make up the body of a paragraph. They provide details to develop and support the paragraph's main idea by giving supporting facts, reasoning, and examples. A good paragraph has at least THREE supporting details.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

The concluding sentence is the last sentence of the paragraph. It restates the main idea of your topic sentence by using different words and delivers a concluding, new twist on the topic. Make sure you don't repeat the exact sentence as your topic sentence.

EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH

Artifacts are valuable tools for studying history.¹ Artifacts document history. They provide tangible evidence of what happened in the past.² Artifacts are gateways to unique stories. Letters, photographs, and physical objects can reveal the experiences of people who lived in the past.³ You can personally relate to artifacts. Studying history using everyday objects connects to your experiences.⁴ Therefore, studying history with artifacts can deepen your understanding.⁵

¹ Topic sentence.

² Supporting detail and evidence.

³ Supporting detail and evidence.

⁴ Supporting detail and evidence.

⁵ Concluding sentence.

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INSTRUCTIONS: Fill out the chart below with sentences about a personal artifact or an artifact from the Museum's collections.

	EXAMPLE	STUDENT EXAMPLE
TOPIC SENTENCE	Artifacts are valuable tools for studying history.	
SUPPORTING DETAIL #1 + EVIDENCE	Artifacts document history. (Supporting detail) They provide tangible evidence of what happened in the past. (Evidence)	
SUPPORTING DETAIL #2 + EVIDENCE	Artifacts are gateways to unique stories. (Supporting detail) Letters, photographs, and physical objects can reveal the experiences of people who lived in the past. (Evidence)	
SUPPORTING DETAIL #3 + EVIDENCE	You can personally relate to artifacts. (Supporting detail) Studying history using everyday objects connects to your experiences. (Evidence)	
CONCLUDING SENTENCE	Therefore, studying history with artifacts can deepen your understanding.	

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EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH

Studying artifacts can deepen your understanding of history. Artifacts document history. They provide tangible evidence of what happened in the past. Artifacts are gateways to unique stories. Letters, photographs, and physical objects can reveal the experiences of people who lived in the past. You can personally relate to artifacts. Studying history using everyday objects connects to your experiences. As a result, artifacts are a valuable tool for studying history.

INSTRUCTIONS: Review the Example Paragraph and the chart you filled out above. Write a completed paragraph here.