How to Write a Paragraph

The practice of writing paragraphs is essential to good writing. Paragraphs help to break up large chunks of text and makes the content easier for readers to digest. However, knowing how to write a good, well-structured paragraph can be little tricky. Read the guidelines below and learn how to take your paragraph writing skills from good to great!

Paragraph Template

Make sure your paragraph has 3 distinct parts.

1. Topic sentence:
- This sentence is the first sentence of a paragraph and summarizes the main idea of the paragraph.
- All of the following sentences will add information that expands upon or supports the idea stated here.

2. Supporting sentences:
- The second sentence identifies the first major supporting detail.
- The third sentence brings up a second supporting detail.
- Similarly, the fourth sentence mentions a third supporting detail.
- Additional sentences can be added here for additional supporting details or to divide one lengthy supporting detail into separate, easier-to-read sentences.

3. Conclusion:
- The last sentence of your paragraph is your concluding sentence, which quickly ties your supporting thoughts together.
- It also might restate your first topic sentence using different terms.

- In brief, the last sentence in a paragraph should be the writer's summary of the argument, hence, it should not be cited. The topic sentence should not be cited too; rather, only the supporting sentences require citation.

- Each paragraph should contain a single point, and no one point should be discussed in more than one paragraph.

- Also, paragraphs should be balanced. They should have almost the same number of words.

- Paragraphs can average 120 words. For instance, a 2-page paper should have 5 paragraphs. These are: 3 body paragraphs, each with a single point of argument, introduction, and conclusion.

- A 3-page paper should have 5 body paragraphs, each with a single point of argument.

Sample Persuasive Paragraph

The benefits of social networking websites have the potential to outweigh the dangers of such websites. While social networking does curb real life interaction with one's peers, it also provides shy, introverted, or socially awkward youth with a new avenue of communication that often makes it easier to connect and form relationships. A sharp increase in cyberbullying is an unfortunate result of social networking, but sites like Facebook also give people the opportunity to build a larger network of support. Additionally, while unmonitored teens and young adults may post photographs and information that could damage their futures and make them less desirable to potential employers, responsible and well-guided youth have the chance to build

working relationships and create a stronger presence in the working world. Even though there are a large number of risks and downfalls associated with social networking, when the tool is used correctly and the youth are instructed on correct usage, it offers considerable positives.