

PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

4TH LECTURE

(PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH)

The Topic Sentence

Supporting Sentences

The Concluding Sentence

Paragraphs?

- A group of sentences
- Paragraphs form the building blocks of an essay.
- Introducing one main idea and provide supporting evidence that elaborates the main idea

1. The Topic Sentence

It is called the topic sentence because it states the topic or the subject of the paragraph

In academic essays, a paragraph should introduce one main idea and provide supporting evidence that elaborates the main idea.

A **topic** gives the answer to the question “**What is the paragraph about?**”

For example, Biochemistry, Physiology and Anatomy are all examples of the topic Medical subjects.

Characteristics of Topic Sentence

1. The topic sentence is usually **the first sentence** of a paragraph.
2. It contains the **main idea**.
3. A topic sentence **must be a complete sentence**: a statement of intent, opinion or a mixture of both.

4. It should be neither **too broad** (Football is very popular in the world) nor **too narrow** (Gold is very valuable).

5. The topic sentence consists of **two parts**: the **subject** (what the paragraph is about) and the **controlling idea** (what the paragraph is going to say about the topic / the writer's attitude or idea about the topic).

Topic Sentence = topic + controlling idea

Caffeine has several harmful effects on health.

Topic Controlling Idea

↘ Topic Sentence ↙

e.g. Students who are studying abroad may face many difficulties.

Topic

Controlling Idea

e.g. There are two main advantages of working at home.

Controlling Idea

Topic

2. Supporting Sentences

- The supporting sentences in a paragraph **explain or develop** the topic sentence.
- The supporting part can be **narratives, details, facts, examples, explanations or statistics.**
- All of the supporting sentences **relate to the main idea stated in the topic sentence.**

3. The Concluding Sentence

- The conclusion of a paragraph signals **the end of the paragraph;**
- It **summarizes** the main points of the paragraph.
- It shows the most **important ideas to think about.**
- A concluding sentence **is not absolutely necessary,** but it is very helpful to the reader remember the main points.

Example

Problems in Big Cities	
(1) All around the world living in big cities creates serious problems for people. (2a) The first problem is air pollution. For example, in Istanbul, many people have cars and cars are one reason why the air is polluted. (2b) Secondly , traffic is an important problem for the people living in big cities. Nowadays there are more and more cars on roads, and this causes traffic jams in many parts of the cities. For this reason, many inhabitants waste their time in traffic, and they are negatively affected by this situation. (3) To sum up , air pollution and traffic jams are two important problems that people living in big cities have.	1 THE TOPIC SENTENCE
	2 SUPPORTING SENTENCES
	3 THE CONCLUDING SENTENCE