

Lesson 5 Write a Paragraph

Here is what you know about paragraphs.

- A paragraph is a group of sentences about the same topic.
- Each sentence in a paragraph stays on topic.
- The main idea of a paragraph is what the paragraph is all about.
- A paragraph's main idea is usually stated in a topic sentence. The topic sentence may fall anywhere in the paragraph.
- The first line of a paragraph is indented.
- Writers must consider the audience for which they are writing.

What is your idea of a great field trip? Where would you go? What would you do? What would you learn? List some details that would be part of your perfect, one-day field trip.

Details:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Review your list. Think about the order in which you want to present your details in a paragraph. If you wish, number them. Then, draft a paragraph about your idea of a terrific field trip. Your purpose is to convince a teacher that your idea is a good one.

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Read through your paragraph. Ask yourself these questions. If necessary, make changes to your paragraph.

Questions to Ask About a Paragraph

- Does the topic sentence express the main idea?
- Does each sentence support the topic sentence?
- Does each sentence express a complete thought?
- Are the ideas in the paragraph appropriate for the audience?
- Is the first line indented?

Now that you have thought about the content, or meaning, of your paragraph, proofread it for errors. Look through several times, looking for a certain kind of error each time. Use this checklist.

- ___ Each sentence begins with a capital letter.
- ___ Each sentence ends with the correct punctuation (period, question mark, or exclamation point).
- ___ Each sentence states a complete thought.
- ___ All words are spelled correctly.

Now, rewrite your paragraph. Use your neatest handwriting and make sure there are no errors in the final copy.
