

The LSS 'How to' Series



C3

Paragraph structure

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A paragraph should be an explanation of one idea. That means the paragraph should be **unified**. All of the sentences after the first one should be explaining or giving examples. When you have finished explaining the idea, the paragraph is finished. This plan will easily produce paragraphs that are unified by one idea.

The most common type of paragraph follows this pattern:

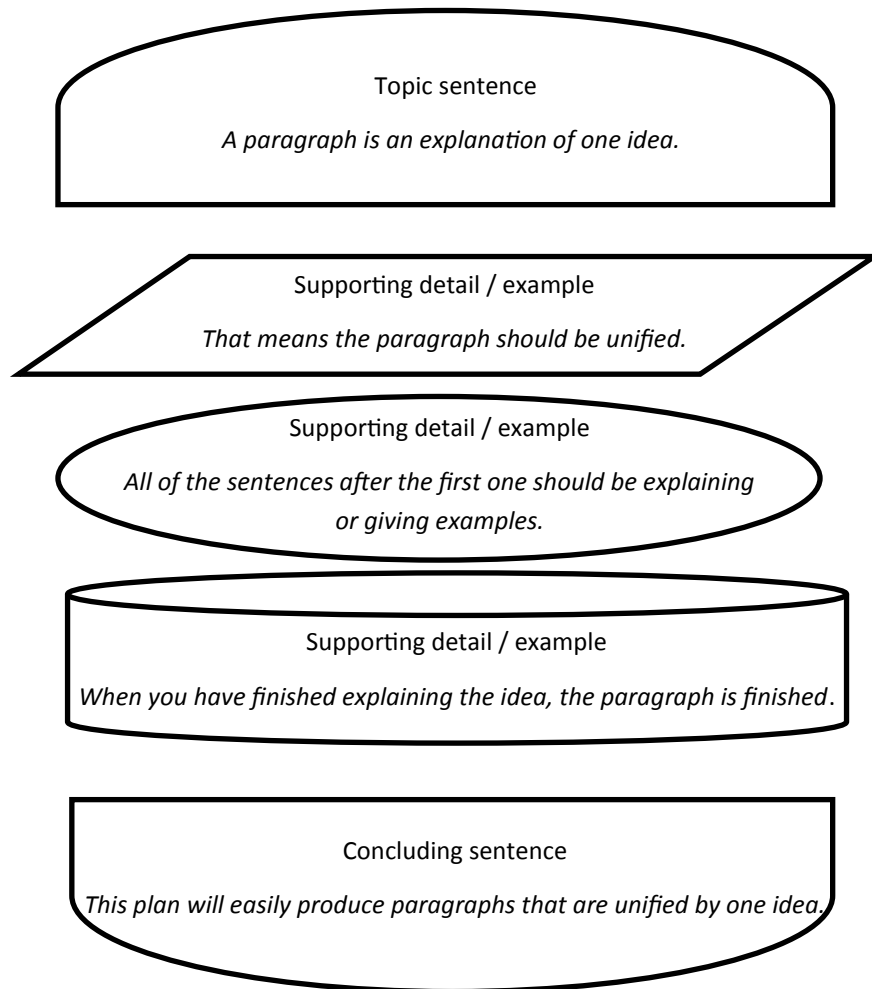
Topic sentence: summarizes what the paragraph is about.

Support sentences: two to five sentences that either give evidence for or further explain the topic sentence.

Concluding sentence: Summarizes the paragraph and possibly leads into the next paragraph.

Paragraph Structure

You can think of the paragraph as being like a sandwich. The bread represents the introduction and conclusion sentences, which explain the subject of the paragraph. The fillings are the supporting sentences.



Paragraph Structure

If you're having trouble writing well-formed paragraphs, you may find it helpful to practice with this guide. Try filling in each section with your own information to see how the paragraph fits together.

