

How to Write a Paragraph

A paragraph is a group of sentences about a single idea. A paragraph has to have a **main idea** and include **details** to support that topic.

A basic paragraph has at least 5 sentences:

1. Sentence One: Topic sentence

A topic sentence tells what the main idea of the paragraph is. Without a good topic sentence, the paragraph is confusing and lacks any direction.

2. Sentence Two: First Detail sentence

Detail sentences tell specific information about the topic sentence.

3. Sentence Three: Second Detail sentence

4. Sentence Four: Third Detail sentence

5. Sentence Five: Closing Sentence (Concluding Sentence)

A closing sentence brings the paragraph to an end by restating the main idea of the paragraph. A closing sentence DOES NOT repeat the topic, it states it in a different way. It never gives any new information.

Example:

Media Studies is the most amazing class you can take when you are in grade 11. **First of all, you get to talk about relevant topics from the news and entertainment world.** **Next, you get to work on these awesome projects like creating your own advertisements and TV shows.** **Finally, you get to watch TV shows in class and look at how they were created and why we watch them.**
Media Studies is definitely a class you should consider taking in grade 11.

Today you are going to write your first paragraph about the novel *The Castaway*.

Your paragraph must have five sentences:

1. Topic sentence
2. First detail sentence
3. Second detail sentence
4. Third detail sentence
5. Closing sentence (concluding sentence)

Write a rough copy first. Check that you have five well written sentences, and then be sure you have no spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors. Next, write a good copy. Your paragraph can be typed or *neatly* written in blue or black pen. Your page must be set up in MLA format. This paragraph is worth 20 marks.

Your topic:

Daniel has washed ashore on a rocky island somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. He's left with a pocket knife, an oar from the boat he was in, and the clothes on his back (minus his boots). What should Daniel do now to ensure his survival until help arrives?

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Washed Ashore

In order to ensure his survival on the rocky island, Daniel should do three key things. First Daniel should...

