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PARAGRAPH WRITING

A well-developed paragraph is a focused presentation of a single unit of thought. Several methods exist for developing paragraphs. Some writers may find that simply using an outline helps them to better enhance their skills, while others may discover that they need to combine all of these techniques to put together stronger writing.

Here are some methods of developing paragraphs:

- Creating an outline
- Topic sentence development
- Supporting details
- Using quotations and evidence
- Analyzing quotations and evidence
- Providing strong, relevant information
- Using concise language
- Using colorful and clear words
- Crafting a strong conclusion statement
- Utilizing appropriate transition words
- Following proper grammar rules

Based on the style of writing there are seven different types of paragraphs.

- narration
- description
- definition
- comparison
- persuasion
- exposition
- process analysis

Types of Paragraph Writing

Narration

Paragraphs written as a narration are a chronological presentation of events that add up to a story. Paragraphs of this type contain characters, setting, conflict and resolution.

Example

Describe a Stressful Time in Your Life

Money causes teenagers to feel stress. It makes them feel bad about themselves and envy other people. My friend, for instance, lives with her family and has to share a room with her sister, who is very cute and intelligent. This girl wishes she could have her own room and have a lot of stuff, but she can't have these things because her family doesn't have much money. Her family's income is pretty low because her father is old and doesn't go to work. Her sister is the only one who works. Because her family can't buy her the things she wants, she feels a lot of stress and gets angry sometimes. Once, she wanted a beautiful dress to wear to a sweetheart dance. She asked her sister for some money to buy the dress. She was disappointed because her sister didn't have money to give her. She sat in silence for a little while and then started yelling out loud. She said her friends got anything they wanted but she didn't. Then she felt sorry for herself and asked why she was born into a poor family. Not having money has caused this girl to think negatively about herself and her family. It has caused a lot of stress in her life.

Description

Descriptive type of paragraphs are written in such a way that the reader is able to imagine the scene, object, person, etc. Series of detailed observations are recorded, using sensory language. Descriptions are like narrative paragraphs, with visual characteristics unfolding in a dramatic way. The main objective of a description is to move the story ahead.

Example

Describe College Life

Most students like the freedom they have in college. Usually college students live on their own, in the dormitory or in an apartment. This means they are free to come and go as they like. Their parents can't tell them when to get up, when to go to school, and when to come home. It also means that they are free to wear what they want. There are no parents to comment about their hair styles or their dirty jeans. Finally, they are free to listen to their favorite music without interference from parents.

Definition

Definition type of paragraphs, provide the meaning, using events and happenings. A strong effort should be made to clearly explain what something is, and not what it is not.

Example

E-Mail

E-mail is not something you can hold in your hand, send in the mail, and a stamp is not needed to send it. E-mail is simply mail put into digital form and sent to its recipient through the Internet. Because of the technological advances of society, mail has been turned into something computer made that can be sent anywhere, anytime, as long as there is an Internet connection. For instance, a person does not have to wait until the post office is open to send an important letter or message, all they have to do is simply get on to the Internet and come up with a draft and hit the send button. Also the person looking to send the mail does not have to pay for the sometimes expensive postage price, but rather the monthly cost of Internet access. Because of the development of E-mail, people can send messages without hassle and in a

timely fashion. E-mail also helps businesses communicate throughout their company simply with the push of a button. As time goes on, e-mail will advance while physical mailing will slowly be turned into something of the past.

Comparison

The objective of paragraphs written in comparison style is to compare, two or more objects, characters, events etc. A chart can be prepared before writing a comparison paragraph. This chart could include the names of the items compared, and the criteria by which they are compared.

Example

Intensive Care: Today and Yesterday



There are many differences between the intensive care a patient received yesterday and the intensive care he receives today. For example, thirty years ago a patient's intensive care consisted of putting him in a single room, giving him oxygen and fluids, taking his vital signs frequently, and giving him medication as ordered. Nurses could not spend much time with a patient, even a critically ill patient, because nurses were so few. Since there was a shortage of nurses in those days, many nurses felt the next time they went to a patient's room he would be dead. Many times he was. However, there has been a revolution since then. The approach to intensive care today is much different. It consists of an entire unit designed especially to care for the critically ill patient. A staff of highly trained nurses and skilled technicians are in constant contact with the patient, taking care of his every need and monitoring any change in his condition,

however slight. In addition to its staff, the intensive care unit is equipped with sensitive life-saving machines. The beeping noise of the heart monitor and the red and green flashing lights of the suction machine are only a few of the reassuring sights and sounds in this world of timelessness and routine. Thanks to the staff, machines, and routine, many patients leave the intensive care unit of today to live long, healthy, happy lives.

Persuasion this type of paragraph is used in editorials and columns. A direct approach is the best in writing a persuasive paragraph. The objective of a persuasive paragraph is to persuade people to change their minds, or take action. Persuasive paragraphs help people formulate an opinion and deepen it, by adding conviction.



Example

Adopting a Pet from the Pound

Owning a pet from the pound or Animal Rescue League has many advantages. First of all, a child feels good about rescuing an abandoned or abused animal and giving it a whole new life. Besides, if the animals from the pound aren't adopted right away, they might be put to sleep. Having a pet also means lots of responsibilities. A child has to feed, clean up after,



brush, and exercise the pet. Another great advantage of having a pet from the pound is the price of these cute and cuddly animals. Pets from the pound cost only a few dollars while pets at a fancy pet store can cost hundreds of dollars.

Once you adopt a pet from the Animal Rescue League, it will quickly become a part of your family. If you are thinking of adopting a pet, you might consider choosing a dog or a cat. Dogs and cats can bring lots of happy times to a family, and they can be excellent companions for a person who lives alone or someone who has lost a loved one. Dogs are also a wonderful source of protection. Cats are funny, and they may help to calm people down when they are sad or mad.

Please consider adopting an animal. If you remember all of the advantages of adopting a pet from the pound, you might find the bird, mouse, hamster, dog, or cat of your choice.

Exposition

Expository paragraphs are explanatory in nature. They could be an important part of a description or narration. Credibility should be added in an expository paragraph, by citing authorities that have good credentials. This type of paragraph could also be a justifier that explains why something is important.

Example

English is the language spoken throughout most of Canada, but in Quebec, the most populated province, and in areas near Quebec, French is the first language. Because of this, Canadians recognize French and English as official languages that are used in business and government. Many people are bilingual and easily go from French to English and vice versa when speaking with tourists. The farther west you go, the more English you'll hear, but it is common to meet people throughout the country who are familiar with both languages.

Process Analysis

A process analysis paragraph describes how a process happens, through a series of actions. The actions are put in a sequence. This type of paragraphs is usually followed by illustration, as they help in understanding the process better.

Example Bread making

The most widely used bread making process in the manufacture of commercial bread is the sponge and dough method. The first step of this process involves setting a mixture of flour, yeast, and water, called the "sponge," into the dough troughs. Seven hundred pounds of flour, for example, may be conveyed mechanically from the flour storage bins to the mixer. A yeast suspension is added to the flour, together with enough water to make the total water content about 460 pounds.

The ingredients are then combined into the spongy mixture and placed into a dough trough where fermentation is permitted to take place. Fermentation is the second step in the sponge and dough method. The dough troughs are large, stainless steel oblong containers with rounded bottoms and are mounted on wheels, to facilitate their being rolled into the fermentation room. Here, where the temperature is held at 80 degrees F., the sponge ferments for about five hours. During this time, there is a chemical interaction of carbonates and acids, causing the sponge to rise. At the completion of the fermentation period, the sponge is ready for the next step in the method, mixing the dough.



The sponge is returned to the mixer together with three hundred pounds of flour, 240 pounds of water, nonfat milk solids, and sugar. These ingredients are mixed into a dough, a process which plays an important part in determining the lightness and porousness of the ultimate loaf of bread. The fourth step is the division of the dough pieces into loaf size. The dough is conveyed mechanically to the dividing machine, which cuts the dough into pieces. From the divider, the pieces are carried to an overhead machine called a proofer, where each piece of dough remains for fifteen minutes. Here the dough is softened in preparation for the molder, which first flattens the dough pieces and then curls the dough the length of the bread pan. After the dough pieces have been panned, the pans are moved into a proof box under a constant temperature of 100 degrees F. The actual baking, of course, concludes the entire process. From the proof box, the pans go to the oven by means of traveling trays.

The temperature of the oven is maintained at 450 degrees F. in order to cause the dough to rise. The speed of the trays is controlled so that the pans remain in the oven for exactly twenty-seven minutes. As the bread emerges from the oven after that time, it is dumped from the pans onto belts which convey it to the cooler. After about an hour and a half in the cooler, the bread is carried once again, this time to the slicer, where it is mechanically sliced to uniform thickness. Finally, the sliced loaf is wrapped by machine and made ready for early morning delivery to the retail stores.

Compare and Contrast

The Paragraph could discuss both similarities and differences, or it could just focus on one or the other. A *comparison* Paragraph usually discusses the similarities between two things, while the *contrast* Paragraph discusses the differences.

Example

There are many advantages to purchasing fresh fruit and vegetables as an alternative to popular processed food items at your local grocer store. While potato chips and donuts are tasty and frozen food is convenient, a habit of eating food prepared in a factory leads to overall poor nutrition and can cause bad health. These ill effects result in increased visits to the dentist or the family physician. A bag of apples might cost more than a bag of Cheetos, but savings in health costs far outweigh the immediate savings at the cash register. Besides, pound for pound, fresh food often turns out to be cheaper than packaged food. Many people forget that when they buy something that is packaged or frozen, they are also buying the packaging which lures shoppers into buying the product. Commercials on television successfully convince consumers that the decisions to buy packaged food is logical, but facts about nutrition and value prove otherwise.