

The background of the slide is a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has a brown cover and a light beige, textured paper. The spiral binding is on the left side, with the metal coils visible. The text is centered on the page.

Jane Schaffer Writing Strategy

How to Write an Effective Paragraph

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adjustments by Jamie Blount

Steps in the Process

- Pre-writing
- Shaping the essay
- First draft
- Peer response
- Revision
- Final draft

Writing Thesis Statements

- A thesis statement is crucial in your essay because it tells your reader what your essay is specifically about.
- Your thesis must contain both the subject and your opinion.
 - Ex. The University of South Carolina is a great school because of it's diversity and focus on academics.
It will also express your pieces of evidence.
 - Ex. The University of South Carolina is a great school because of it's diversity, it's focus on academics, and because of it's research.

Thesis = 's

- Your opinion plus 3 supporting pieces of evidence.
- Subject, opinion, because _____, _____, and _____
- Pieces of evidence = 's paragraphs
- You are not limited to three pieces of evidence in your paper

Prewriting

- This is the process of getting ideas down on paper before organizing the essay into paragraphs.
- There are many types of prewriting:
 - Bubble Clusters and Spider Diagrams
 - Outlining
 - Line Clustering
 - Columns

Writing Commentary

- Writing commentary means giving your opinion, interpretation, insight, analysis, explication, personal reaction, feelings, evaluation, or reflection about a topic.
- For every point of concrete detail (CD) in a body paragraph (BP), you must write two or more points of commentary (CM)
 - **CD:CM= 1:2+**

The Prompt



Before writing anything, know your assignment— **READ THE PROMPT!**
What are you being asked to do?

Response-to-Literature Writing=
writing that discusses what is of
value in a work of literature.

Literary Response requires a careful,
critical look at the reading.

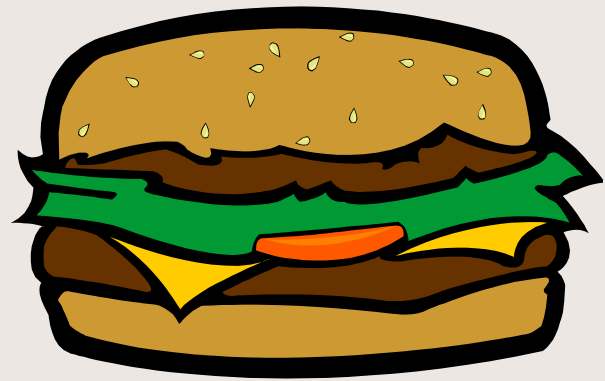
Get Ready to Color Your World!

How to Write an Effective Paragraph

- Materials: When we write, we will use blue, red, and green pens.
- BLUE is for Topic Sentences (TS) and Concluding Sentences (CS).
- RED is for Concrete Details (CD).
- GREEN is for Commentary Sentences (CM).

Step 1: TOPIC SENTENCE

- A Topic Sentence (TS) is the top bun of a hamburger.

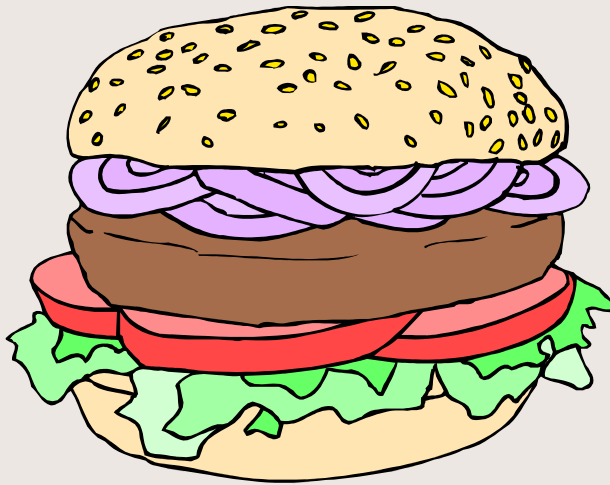


- TS = first sentence of the paragraph. It shows the main idea.
- Usually a mildly controversial statement--something that you have to prove. It can be as brief as 3 words!

Example Topic Sentence (TS)

1) In the fairy tale “The Three Little Pigs,” the third pig is very wise.

Step 2: CONCRETE DETAILS



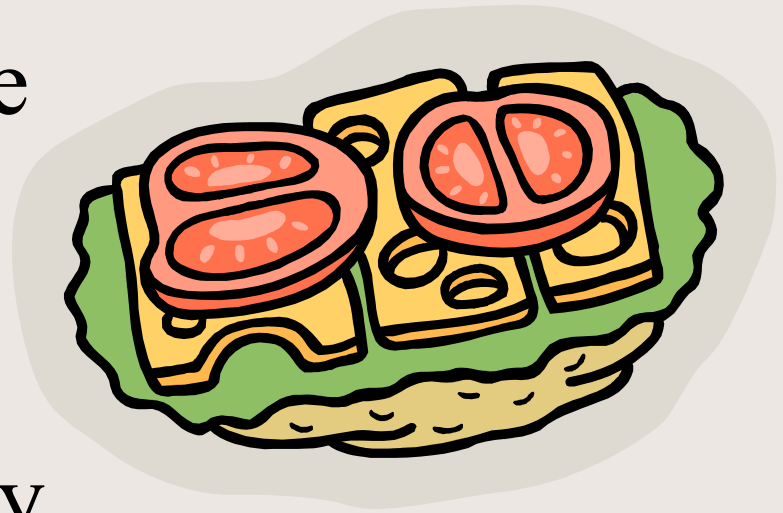
- Concrete Details (**CD**) are the meat of the hamburger.
- **CD**s = *Support* for your **TS**. (facts, quotes, examples, etc. from text)
- **CD**s can't be argued with—a **CD** is evidence that supports your point!

Example Concrete Detail (CD)

2) For example, remembering his mother's warning about a wolf, he builds his house out of sturdy brick.

Step 3: COMMENTARY

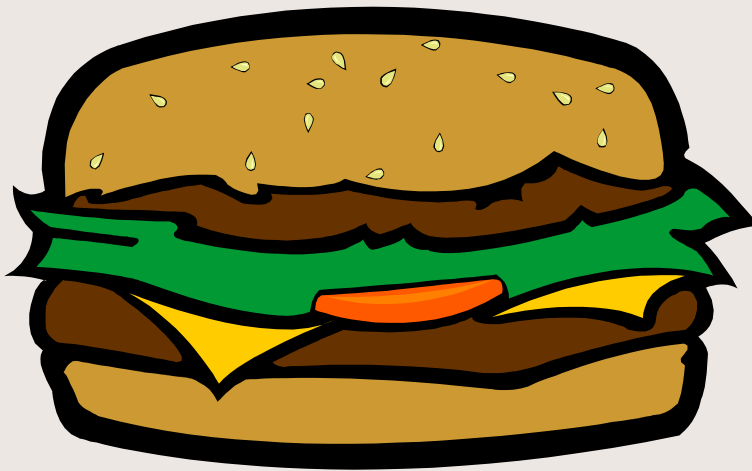
- Commentary Sentences (**CM**) are the “extras” on the hamburger—the tomato, cheese, lettuce, mayo—they make it **delicious**!
- **CMs** = your analysis, interpretation, explanation, or insight into the text.



Example Commentary Sentences (2 CMs)

3) The wolf is unable to blow down the brick house. 4) This shows that the third pig is smarter than his brothers, who were both eaten by the wolf.

Step 4: CONCLUDING SENTENCE



- A concluding sentence (**CS**) is the bottom bun of the hamburger.
- A **CS** wraps up the paragraph. It rephrases the main idea.

Example Concluding Sentence (CS)

5) In conclusion, the third pig outsmarts not only his brothers but the “big, bad” wolf as well.

TS, CD, CM, CS—Now What?

- **CHUNKING**

A combination of CDs and CMs is called a *chunk*.

For a *literary response*, we will use a combination (or “ratio”) of 1:2.

That is, for every 1 CD, you will have 2 CMs.

One Chunk: 1 CD + 2 CM

For example, remembering his mother's warning about a wolf, he builds his house out of sturdy brick. The wolf is unable to blow down the brick house. This shows that the third pig is smarter than his brothers, who were both eaten by the wolf.

Ratio = 1:2



Your Hazing Report

- You will produce 4 paragraphs.
 - Introduction, BP1, BP2, Conclusion
- Your body paragraphs need to have 1 TS 2 CD , 4 CM and 1 CS.
 - Total of 8 sentences each
- Direct quotes from your sources
 - “Prevention from hazing has become increasingly important in the past ten years” (Hazing Prevention).
- It must be typed in Times New Roman size 12 font.
 - Be sure to include both partners’ names.

Transitions

- A good paragraph will also use transition words. These are words or phrases that help readers connect your ideas.
- Example transitions:

For example, *Thus,* *In summary,*
For instance, *Because of this,* *Hence,*
Consequently, *As a result,* *Therefore,*



Does It Flow?



Now you know how to write
a one- chunk paragraph...

LET'S EAT!



Step 6: A Whole Paragraph



In the fairy tale “The Three Little Pigs,” the third pig is very wise. For example, remembering his mother’s warning about a wolf, he builds his house out of sturdy brick. The wolf is unable to blow down the brick house. This shows that the third pig is smarter than his brothers, who were both eaten by the wolf. In conclusion, the third pig outsmarts not only his brothers but the “big, bad” wolf as well.