

2. Supporting Sentences

Supporting sentences develop the topic sentence. That is, they explain the topic sentence by giving more information such as reasons, examples, facts, statistics, and quotations. Supporting point sentences list the main points of the paragraph.

There are at least two kinds of the supporting sentences. First, a major support sentence. It develop the controlling idea of a paragraph by telling the reader something new or different about the idea. It directly supports the controlling idea by making the idea more easily understood. Second, a minor support sentence develops its major support sentence and helps its major support sentence develop the controlling idea. It directly supports its major support sentence by making it more easily understood. Besides, it directly supports the controlling idea of the paragraph by helping its major support sentence to make the idea more easily understood. Examine the following examples :

A Person Who Has Made a Difference: My Grandfather

My grandfather helped his community in two ways.

A. He improved farming techniques in his area.

- first farmer to terrace his land
- terracing helps prevent soil erosion

B. He started a community hospital.

- only hospital in big area

Topic sentence

My friend Macarena is generous.

Supporting sentences

She often lets travelers stay in her home. She has hosted many students temporarily. She sends money to her family in Chile every month to help them with their bills. She always brings flowers or food to her friends when they are sick or have a need.

Tips to Develop Supporting Sentences

To develop supporting sentences you can use examples. Giving examples is one of the ways to provide more information about the topic sentence. Examples illustrate the supporting

point sentences. Examples are good support because they are specific; they make your meaning very clear.

To give examples you can use the signal phrases. They can introduce examples. At the beginning of a sentence, use For example or For instance, followed by a comma. In front of an example is just word or phrase (not an entire sentence). Also, in the middle of sentences you can use the prepositional phrase such as, not followed by a comma.

Supporting explanation

In the old days, people memorized important information, but today's youth rely on their computers, cell phones, and PDA's to do assignments, record numbers, and save important information. As a result, they can find themselves unprepared in an emergency such as an electrical blackout. Once their batteries die, these people will not be able communicate.

Supporting example

For example, I do all my schoolwork on my computer. When my computer crashed last week, I lost my only draft of an essay that was due the next day. As a result, I got a bad grade.

3. The Concluding Sentence

The Concluding Sentence

The concluding, or final, sentence of a paragraph usually reminds the reader of the topic and controlling idea of the paragraph. The concluding sentence restates the main idea.

Topic sentence

I love the color red.

Concluding sentence

I like to live life in a strong way, so I think I will always admire the color red.

In addition to restating the main idea, the concluding sentence may:

- warn the reader.

If you do not follow these steps, you may not get the grade that you want.

- make a prediction.

The automotive industry will change, and soon everyone will be driving pollution-free cars.

- give an opinion about the topic.

Some people might disagree, but I think lamb is the best meat for grilling.

Sometimes writers signal the concluding sentence by using the phrase *In conclusion*.

In conclusion, learning a second language has many advantages.

HOW TO MAKE CONCLUDING SENTENCE

A concluding sentence signals the end of the paragraph and reminds the reader of the main idea or leaves the reader with important points to remember. A concluding sentence is not absolutely necessary, but it is very often helpful to the reader because it signals the end of the paragraph and reminds the reader of your important points.

In short, a concluding sentence serves three purposes. (1) It signals the end of the paragraph. It is shown from the use of end-of-paragraph signals such as in conclusion, in summary, finally, etc. (2) It summarizes the main points of the paragraph. (3) It gives a final comment on your topic and leaves the reader with the most important ideas to think about.

Tips to Write a Concluding Sentence

To write a good concluding sentence there are three tips to help you. Here are those tips:

1. Begin with a conclusion signal. Most conclusion signals have commas after them; others do not.

Remind your reader of the main idea by one of the following methods

Method 1 (Paraphrasing):

Repeat the idea in the topic sentence in different words. Do not just copy the topic sentence.

Example:

Topic Sentence: Successful bidding on eBay requires patience and strategy.

→ In brief, wait patiently and place your bid with precision timing, and you will be the winning bidder every time. (Concluding Sentence)

Method 2 (Summarizing):

Summarize the main point or points of the paragraph.

→ In conclusion, follow the steps I have outlined, and you will be the winning bidder every time. (Concluding Sentence)

3. Never end a paragraph by introducing a new idea.

Example:

→ In conclusion, you can spend a lot of money on eBay. (It is not concluding sentence because it introduces a new idea)

Topic sentence

My friend Macarena is generous.

Supporting sentences

She often lets travelers stay in her home. She has hosted many students temporarily. She sends money to her family in Chile every month to help them with their bills. She always brings flowers or food to her friends when they are sick or have a need.

Concluding sentence

Macarena is one of the most generous people I know.