

The expository paragraph

The *expository paragraph* is a paragraph that presents a certain amount of information about a subject. In expository paragraph, the writer provides information about a particular subject. The methods of development in expository includes: giving examples or illustration, supplying reasons, explaining a process, comparing and contrasting, defining, and classifying .

Consider the following expository paragraph

In a number of ways, the State Islamic Institute of Palangka Raya is making it easier for older students to attend college. For example, the university now offers courses on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays for older students. Classes on these days appeal to those students who, because of work or family responsibilities, cannot enroll in the courses during the week. In addition, many departments in the university have begun to offer credits for life experience, so students with a good background in the world of work can complete their degrees more quickly. Finally, the dean announced last month that the university will soon open a day-care center for the children of students who would attend the classes if they had a pleasant on safe place to leave their children.

Illustration or Exemplification Pattern

This pattern of development uses supporting examples to illustrate a generalization. To illustrate means to clarify by providing an example, a specific instance of a point or general idea. In organizing a piece of writing illustratively, we will have to decide how many examples we will need to make our point and how extensively to develop each. An illustration paragraph is used to develop a paragraph by providing: one, two, or more examples to make more vivid and more exact.

Organization:

Costa Rica: A Great Place to Study Wildlife

Costa Rica is a great place to spend a semester doing wildlife research for two reasons. First of all, this small country has very diverse¹ geography, so it has many different wildlife habitats. For example, Tortuguero National Park, on Costa Rica's northeastern coast, has more than ten different wildlife habitats, including rainforests, beaches, swamps, and canals. Students can study alligators in the swamps or observe sea turtles as they lay their eggs on the beaches. Another example is Corcovado National Park on the west coast. With its 13 different habitats, including an ancient rainforest, it is one of the most important nature preserves of the American continents. Second, Costa Rica has an astounding number of wildlife species². For instance, near the Arenal Volcano, there are 135 species of reptiles, including tortoises, snakes, and lizards, and over 250 species of birds live in the area. Another place with a rich variety of wildlife is Corcovado. There students can observe exotic animals, such as anteaters, spider monkeys, jaguars, and over 360 species of birds. Indeed, Costa Rica is a wonderful place to study if you love wildlife.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| TITLE | Costa Rica: A Great Place to Study Wildlife |
| TOPIC SENTENCE | Costa Rica is a great place to spend a semester doing wildlife research for two reasons. |
| 1ST REASON | A. Very diverse geography |
| EXAMPLE 1 | 1. Tortuguero National Park (on _____ coast) |
| DETAILS | a. more than _____ habitats b. swamps - study alligators c. beaches - _____ |
| EXAMPLE 2 | 2. _____ National Park |
| DETAILS | a. _____ different habitats b. _____ rainforest c. one of the most important preserves on the _____ |
| 2ND REASON | B. Astounding number of wildlife species |
| EXAMPLE 1 | 1. area near the Arenal Volcano |
| DETAILS | a. _____ species of reptiles (tortoises, snakes, lizards) b. _____ |
| EXAMPLE 2 | 2. _____ |
| DETAILS | a. Exotic _____ b. _____ species of birds |
| CONCLUDING SENTENCE | Indeed, Costa Rica is a wonderful place to study if you love wildlife. |

Transitional Signals

In addition, we should use exactly the transitional devices. Skill in using the transition expressions is very vital to coherent writing. Transitional expressions are words and phrases that point out the exact relation between one idea and another, one sentence and another. Words like therefore, however, for example, and finally are signals that guide the reader from sentence to sentence. Without them, even orderly and well-written paragraphs can be confusing and hard to follow. Well chosen transitional words can help to stress the purpose and order of the paragraph. The following are various transitional expressions or devices:

| Purpose | Transitional | expressions | |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| To add | also and and then as well | beside beyond that first second | for one thing what is more in addition moreover |
| To compare | also Like wise | as well similarly | both (neither) in the same way |
| To contrast | although but however in contrast | nevertheless whereas yet even though | on the contrary on the other hand be that as it may |
| To concede | certainly no doubt | of course to be sure | granted that |
| To emphasize | above all indeed most important | especially surely | in fact in particular |
| To illustrate | for example for instance | one such yet another | as a case in point as an illustration |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| To summarize | all in all in brief to sum up | finally lastly | in other words on the whole |
| To place in time | soon at last briefly at present then | finally during suddenly afterward recently | immediately after a while eventually currently meanwhile |
| To show similarities | alike likewise | like similarly | in the same way resemble |
| To give example | after all For example In fact | as an example for instance it is true | certainly indeed of course |
| To show cause and effect | accordingly therefore because | as a result hence since | consequently thus |

Read the following paragraph then extract transitional devices:

Outdoor Education remains my favorite field trip of all time due to all of the memorable activities we experienced. For instance, I was able to touch and hold a wide variety of animals that I had never seen until I visited their science center. One animal was a blue tongue skink that reminded me of leather because it was dry and smooth. The chinchilla was also smooth, yet its fur was also the softest that I had ever felt. This goes to show that one can find similarities in unusual places. I would have never guessed that a reptile and a mammal would have anything in common, but their bodies were pleasing to the touch in different ways! In addition, I also was able to scale to great heights when I visited the high ropes course deep in the forest. Once I had my safety harness and helmet, I surged upward on ladders and nets. The nets were not as challenging as the balance beam which turned out to be my favorite because of the patience and determination that were needed. I realize now that even something difficult can be fun. I hope to use this thought in other areas of my life

because now I might achieve even more than before. Finally, I loved splashing around Lake Peters in the canoe with my partner. The direction on how to hold the paddle and how to steer were not that hard, but actually doing it on the lake was difficult. It became less difficult with the help of my partner because we had to work together to be successful. This means that two heads are better than one! Sometimes we depend on others to reach our goals. I have learned from this trip that there are many opportunities out there for us to experience and that we should take advantage of them to create life long memories.

Task: With the help of the outline below, write an expository paragraph

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|----------------|--|
| TITLE | The Worst Restaurant in Town |
| TOPIC SENTENCE | _____ is the worst fast-food restaurant in town. (add name) |
| 1ST REASON | A. |
| EXAMPLES | 1. 2. |
| 2ND REASON | B. |
| EXAMPLES | 1. 2. |
| 3RD REASON | C. |
| EXAMPLES | 1. 2. |