

Week 8: Introducing the Paragraph

Five Parts--CAVES

Day 1: A Paragraph Contains Sentences

- (A) You have learned to write well with sentences for several weeks now. Guess what? Now you will learn to write paragraphs. You will spend the remainder of this book learning to write paragraphs and short essays.
- (B) Just like you had to learn the parts of a sentence in order to write a sentence well, you also have to learn the parts of a paragraph in order to write a paragraph well. And just like you learned a trick for sentences (CAVES), you will learn a trick for paragraphs.
- (C) You probably recognize paragraphs. You might remember from other writing you have done that a paragraph is made up of a group of sentences.
- (D) Yes, this is true. A paragraph does contain sentences. However, there are certain guidelines that must be followed in order for a group of sentences to be called a paragraph.
- (E) For instance, is the following group of sentences a paragraph?
- Friends are good to have. A puppy must be trained to obey. My van is red. Our grandpa is coming for a visit.
- (F) **That group of sentences cannot be a paragraph! The sentences in that group are all about different topics! The sentences in that group do not go together.**
- (G) **A paragraph must contain sentences that are all about the same topic.**
- (H) If a group of sentences has sentences all about different topics, it cannot be a paragraph.
- (I) Also, most of the time (except in dialogue with quotes or for other special emphasis), a paragraph needs to have three sentences or more.
- (J) Groups of words with only two sentences are not usually considered paragraphs.

<> 1. **Week 8: For the groups of sentences provided below, write PAR if the group of sentences is a paragraph or NO PAR if it is not on the line following each one. Tell your teacher why the ones that are not paragraphs are not paragraphs.**

Example:

Friends are good to have. A puppy must be trained to obey.

My van is red. Our grandpa is coming for a visit. **No Par**

Penguins live in the cold areas of the world. The mother penguin lays one or two eggs. The baby penguins hatch. The parents feed them food. The babies learn to fish and swim by themselves. Penguins are interesting birds. _____

Penguins live in the cold area of the world. The mother penguin lays one or two eggs. _____

God made the heavens and the earth. I like red trucks and green cars. I have a little puppy. _____

God made the heavens and the earth. He formed man from the dust of the ground. He made animals too. God is a great Creator. _____

Day 2: Introducing the Five Parts of a Paragraph (OCCTI)

In order for a group of sentences to be a paragraph, it must have the following five things:

- (1) **Opening sentence:** A paragraph must have an **opening sentence**.
 - a. The opening sentence tells what the entire paragraph is about.
 - b. It does this by creatively introducing the topic.
 - c. If your paragraph is about loyalty in friendships, your opening sentence could be this:
Loyalty is needed in friendships.
 - d. The opening sentence is sometimes called the **topic sentence**.
- (2) **Closing sentence:** A paragraph must have a **closing sentence**.
 - a. The closing sentence summarizes the paragraph.
 - b. It brings the topic to a close.
 - c. If your paragraph is about examples of loyalty in the world of nature, your closing sentence could be this: These animals all show loyalty just as we should in our lives.
- (3) **Contains all the same topic:** All of the sentences in a paragraph **contain the same topic**.
 - a. If your paragraph is about animals, you cannot have a sentence about trucks in it.
 - b. Your paragraph must be about whatever the opening sentence is about.
- (4) **Three or more sentences:** A paragraph usually has **three or more sentences**.
 - a. Well-written paragraphs usually contain at least three sentences.
 - b. The exception to this rule is when you are writing with quotations.
- (5) **Indented:** A paragraph must be **indented**.
 - a. On the first line of the paragraph, indent before you start writing.
 - b. An indention is two or three finger spaces.
 - c. This lets the reader know that a new paragraph has begun.
 - d. If you are typing your paragraph, you can just type all the way to the left of the page for every line, but put two spaces between each paragraph.

<> 2a. Week 8: Fill in the blanks for OCCTI.

O _____

C _____

C _____

T _____

I _____

<> 2b. Week 8: Memorize the acronym OCCTI, and recite it to your teacher.

Opening sentence

Closing sentence

Contains all the same topic

Three or more sentences

Indented

Day 3: Reviewing the Five Parts of a Paragraph (OCCTI)

(A) Do you remember the acronym that helps you learn what paragraphs are? Did you remember that the trick is called OCCTI?

1. **O**pening sentence: A paragraph must have an **opening sentence**.
 - a. The opening sentence tells what the entire paragraph is about.
 - b. It does this by creatively introducing the topic.
 - c. If your paragraph is about loyalty, your opening sentence could be this:
Loyalty is needed in friendships.
 - d. The opening sentence is sometimes called the topic sentence.
2. **C**losing sentence—A paragraph must have a **closing sentence**.
 - a. The closing sentence **summarizes the paragraph**.
 - b. It brings the topic to a close.
 - c. If your paragraph was about the physical results of anger, your closing sentence could be: Anger causes many physical problems.
3. **C**ontains all the same topic—A paragraph must contain sentences about only one topic.
 - a. If your paragraph is about ducks, you will not include a sentence about anger.
 - b. **Your paragraph must be about whatever the opening sentence is about.**
4. **T**hree or more sentences—A paragraph must have three or more sentences.
 - a. The exception to this rule is when you are writing with quotation marks.
 - b. Excellent paragraphs contain at least five sentences.
5. **I**ndented—A paragraph must be indented.
 - a. On the first line of the paragraph, you should move in a few spaces before you start writing.
 - b. An indentation is two or three finger spaces.
 - c. An indentation tells the reader that a new paragraph has started.
 - d. When you are typing, you can replace the indentation with a line in between each paragraph. This creates block paragraphs and looks more professional.

(B) The acronym OCCTI will help you remember this.

Opening sentence

Closing sentence

Contains all the same topic

Three or more sentences

Indented

<> 3a. Week 8: Be sure you can still recite OCCTI to your teacher, and tell her what each letter stands for.

O _____

C _____

C _____

T _____

I _____

<> 3b. Week 8: For the sentences provided, number them in the order that you think they would sound good in a paragraph. Follow these tips:

- (1) Remember: The opening sentence will introduce the whole topic (baby seal being born to mother).
- (2) The sentences you put in the middle should support (or be about) the first sentence.
- (3) The sentence you put at the end should close or summarize your paragraph.

_____ During all of this time, the mother seal is training the baby to take care of himself.

_____ A baby seal is born to his mother with black fur and blue eyes.

_____ After he is born, the mother seal takes care of her baby for a week.

_____ While she is away, she comes back to check on him sometimes.

_____ After the week is up, she leaves him for a while.

Day 5: Applying OCCTI to a Paragraph

(A) Now that you have learned OCCTI and written a paragraph, you will learn to check your paragraph to see if it is truly OCCTI.

(B) Do you remember the five parts of OCCTI?

Opening sentence

Closing sentence

Contains all the same topic

Three or more sentences

Indented

<> 5. Week 8: Complete the following steps to check your seal paragraph for OCCTI:

(1) Highlight the first sentence you wrote with a highlighter. Does this sentence tell what your paragraph is about? **Opening sentence**

(2) With a different color, highlight the last sentence you wrote. Does this sentence close your paragraph? **Closing sentence**

(3) Underline all of the support sentences (sentences within the body of your paragraph) you wrote with a different color highlighter if all of them are about the same topic (a mother seal taking care of or teaching her baby seal). **Contain the same topic**

(4) Count the number of sentences your wrote and write that total number beside your paragraph. Do you have at least three sentences? **Three or more paragraphs**

(5) Draw an arrow showing indentation just before your first sentence. Is your paragraph indented? **Indented**

Week 9: Beginning Paragraph Writing

Question and Answer Outline & Descriptive Paragraph

Day 1: Directed Writing of a Descriptive Paragraph Part I

(A) Hopefully, you still remember what a paragraph must contain in order to be a paragraph:

Opening sentence

Closing sentence

Contains all the same topic

Three or more sentences

Indented

(B) Now you will be using what you have learned about OCCTI to write a paragraph of your own by answering questions, then putting your answers into paragraph form.

<> 1. Week 9: Answer the questions that are listed below with a word or a few words in the order they are given.

Example: What word would you use to best describe your bedroom? comfortable

1. What word would you use to best describe your bedroom?

2. What colors do you have in your bedroom?

3. What size bed do you have in your room?

4. Do you share your room with anyone?

5. What is your favorite thing about your bedroom?

6. Is your bedroom a cozy place, a practical place, or a fun place?

Day 2: Directed Writing of a Descriptive Paragraph--Part II

You will work on a paragraph about your bedroom again today.

<> 2. Week 9: On the lines provided, turn your answers from yesterday into complete sentences, and write those sentences on the line provided. Be sure each sentence has all five parts of a sentence (CAVES).

Example--Word to describe your bedroom: My bedroom is a comfortable place.

1. What word would you use to best describe your bedroom?

2. What colors do you have in your bedroom?

3. What size bed do you have in your room?

4. Do you share your room with anyone?

5. What is your favorite thing about your bedroom?

6. Is your bedroom a cozy place, a practical place, or a fun place?

Day 5: Checking OCCTI in Original Descriptive Paragraph

(A) Now that you have learned OCCTI and written a paragraph, you will learn to check your paragraph to see if it is truly OCCTI.

(B) Do you remember the five parts of OCCTI?

Opening sentence

Closing sentence

Contains all the same topic

Three or more sentences

Indented

<> 5. Week 9: Complete the following steps to check your room paragraph for OCCTI:

(1) Highlight the first sentence you wrote with a highlighter. -- **Opening sentence**

(2) With a different color, highlight the last sentence you wrote. -- **Closing sentence**

(3) Underline all of the sentences you wrote with a different color highlighter if all of them are about the same topic -- **Contains the same topic**

(4) Count the number of sentences you wrote and write that total number beside your paragraph. -- **Three or more paragraphs**

(5) Draw an arrow showing indentation just before your first sentence. -- **Indented**