

Writing a Unified Paragraph

A well written paragraph focuses on one main idea. A clear topic sentence, usually at the beginning of the paragraph, identifies the controlling idea and establishes the purpose of the paragraph. The remaining sentences support the idea by supplying major examples or facts that are expanded further with specific details. The details explain *who, what, when, where, why, and how*.

A unified paragraph maintains coherence and unity. Coherence is achieved by ordering the information logically, and by developing examples and facts that are related. Develop unity by repeating key words within the paragraph. To avoid boredom, however, use pronouns to substitute for nouns, and find synonyms in a thesaurus to rename key words. Remember to use transition words and phrases such as *in addition, also, equally important, furthermore, however, next, finally*, etc. to move smoothly from one example to the next.

Topic: _____

Purpose: _____

Topic sentence: _____

1. Specific Example: _____

a. Supporting detail: _____

b. Supporting detail: _____

2. Specific Example: _____

a. Supporting detail: _____

b. Supporting detail: _____

3. Specific example: _____

a. Supporting detail: _____

b. Supporting detail: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____