Chapter 1: Paragraph Structure, Word Families, The Writing Process
- What are the parts of a paragraph?
- How to construct an appropriate topic sentence?
- How to support the topic sentence?
-How to close up the paragraph?

Word Families: Page 4

What is meant by word families? Give examples.

How can word families benefit one's writing?

Do you think that vocabularies are important in writing process?

How can one improve his/her vocabulary?

What is a paragraph?
A paragraph is a group of sentences that tells about one subject or area. Each sentence in a paragraph must give information about the topic.

A good paragraph is the one which regularly consists of three main parts:

1. The topic sentence: Introduction (=Topic +main idea, The hock). It is usually the first sentence in a paragraph. Sometimes the topic sentence is called a controlling idea.

- The topic sentence can sometimes be confusing in its position and constructing.

As a matter of fact, the topic sentence consists of two parts.
The first part tells about the topic or subject, the second part tells about the idea of that subject.
 Both of them will form the main idea of the paragraph i.e. the general idea, the point that the writer wants to make about that subject or topic.

Ex.
 Driving on freeways requires strong nerves.
Driving on freeways requires skill and alertness.
Driving on freeways requires an aggressive attitude.
Participating in class discussion can be a problem for some students.
Studies show that certain styles of interpersonal communication are less effective than others.
Is a topic sentence regularly placed at the first part, i.e. in the subject position?

Immigrants have contributed many delicious foods to U.S. cuisine.
A major problem for many students is the cost of tuition and books.

 - Avoid writing a topic sentence which is too general i.e. cannot be covered or provided in few sentences or paragraphs.

ex. The history of astronomy is interesting. This is a too general topic sentence (It is impossible to provide all the history of such since as being interesting).
So, it is best to limit the subject as follows:
Ancient people recorded lunar and solar events in different ways.
In this way, the writer limits the subject to include one astronomical aspect which is the lunar and solar events. Then, the writer focuses on the idea of the subject to include only ancient era i.e. the different ways of recordings of people of that era.

- Avoid writing a topic sentence which is too specific and can only be considered as a supporting one.

In the example above (the topic sentence) the following sentence is only considered as a supporting one for it:

Ice Age people recorded the appearance of new moons by making scratches in animal bones.

This sentence provides us with one event (the moon) about the topic (the lunar and solar events) to illustrate the idea of ancient people recordings about the moon.

So, this sentence is specific i.e. it is only used to provide the general idea.

- Avoid writing a topic sentence which is incomplete.

Communicating with colleagues. (Incomplete).

Communicating with colleagues requires sensitivity and understanding. (The best)

How to improve online social networks. (Incomplete).

The improvement of online social networks leads to the improvements of life. (The best).

2. The supporting sentence: Body (details, facts, opinions, illustrations, examples etc.). It supports the information that makes the topic sentence more interesting or help explaining it more clearly. It includes specific details. Supporting sentences should be ordered according to the best possible ways. There are three ways can help do so: Time, location and importance.

In the supporting sentence paragraph part, we can find numbers, examples, explanations, statistics, experiences, … etc.?
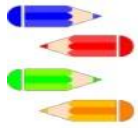
What is the difference between opinion and fact supporting sentences?

What other techniques that are used in supporting sentences?

3. The concluding sentence (Closing, summarizes/ restates the topic sentence and the supporting sentences). It sums up the paragraph's message, and reminds what a topic sentence is about.

What is the purpose of a concluding sentence?

How can we form a concluding sentence?
Do all paragraphs need a concluding sentence?

PARAGRAPH SAMPLE

My Dog Romeo is so much fun to play with. One reason he's fun is because he loves to play catch. What's also fun is that he follows me around the house with a toy and drops it on my foot, so I will kick it. Additionally, he can catch just about anything, but his favorite thing to catch is a Frisbee. Finally, he loves it when I pretend like I'm falling dead, and he runs over to lick me. **All these reasons show why I really have fun playing with Romeo.**

Red is the topic sentence
Blue is the supporting details
Brown is the conclusion.

- We should know that a good paragraph will not be complete if any of above parts is missed.
- Each part has its own role to contribute in forming the good paragraph.
- As concerning the length of the paragraph, it can be as short as one sentence or as long as ten sentences.
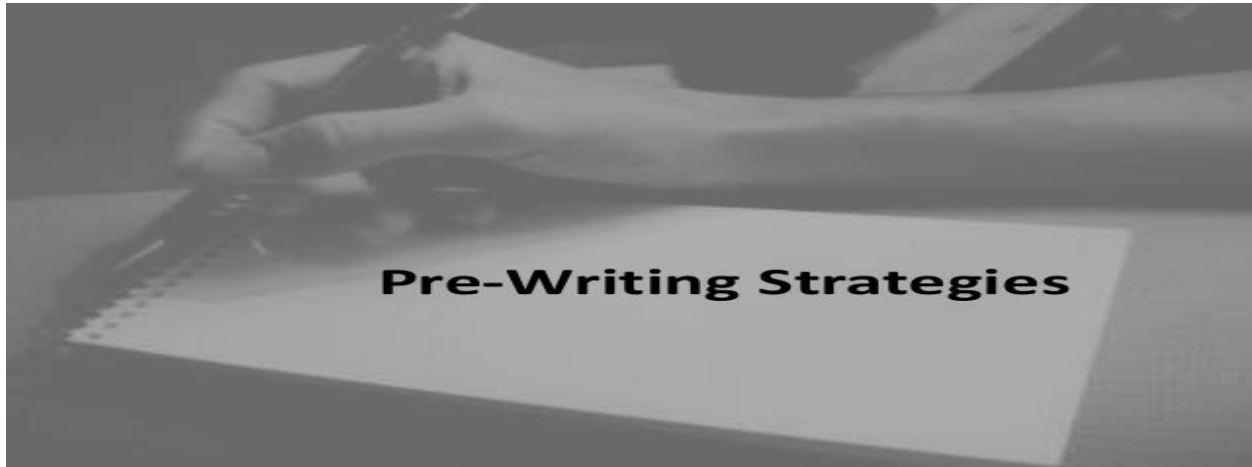
Q. What is the benefit of using conjunctions/ Transitions in a paragraph?

Transitions

- Help your paragraphs flow together. They link ideas so that they relate to one another

in the same way	as a result
similarly	therefore
likewise	finally
while	in conclusion
on the other hand	in summary
although	lastly
however	in addition

Notice how these transitions or conjunctions are used to join ideas and help move from one relation, information or idea to another:

 Canada is the best place to live in. (TS.) At first, (Transitional) Canada has an excellent health and care system. (S.) Second, Canada has an excellent standard of education. (S.) Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed. (S.). As a result, (Transitional) Canada is a desirable place to live in.(CS.)

Process of Writing:

What are the six steps of writing process?
Writing is a process. Comment with examples.
What are the main tips that pre-writing process includes?
Deciding the topic sentence can be found in the pre-writing process. True /False.
Mistakes are permitted in revising process. True/False
Show in an example how you will revise the draft of your paragraph.

What is the difference between step 1 and step 2?
Irrelevant information is allowed in the writing process. How and where? Discuss with examples.

1. Pre-writing Process
What does Pre-Writing Process include? Provide your answer with examples.
See the image below to help answer the question.

Brainstorming/Listing

Example (Brainstorming of a student who needs to write a paper about the environment):

Environment
Problems
Future
Cars
Alternative fuels
 Hybrid cars
Costs
Benefits?

To which process writing does the image below belong?

Clustering/Mapping

Example (Clustering of a student who needs to write a paper on the value of a college education)