

PARAGRAPHS



WHAT IS A PARAGRAPH

- According to Strunk and White: “the setting forth of a single idea ... is best written in a paragraph” (16).
- They continue: “The object of treating each topic in a paragraph by itself is, of course, to aid the reader. The beginning of each paragraph is a signal that a new step in the development of the subject has been reached” (16).
- A visual aid to show a single idea.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO WRITE A STRONG PARAGRAPH?

- Writing a good paragraph will help you stay on track with the topic; it will help you express your ideas in the best possible way
- Writing a strong paragraph also helps your readers; it makes it easier for them to follow your thoughts
- You will write paragraphs in any and all writing assignments throughout college, not only in English but in any other course
- You may have absolutely wonderful ideas, but if you can't express those in a clear well developed paragraph, you will lose your readers.

WHAT IS P.I.E.?

- A delicious dessert.
- A way to remember what goes into a paragraph/
- P=Point (pink)
- I=Information (yellow)
- E=Explanation (blue)

THE THREE PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH (P.I.E)

- **Point:** the point of the paragraph is made in the first sentence, also known as the topic sentence; it tells readers what the paragraph will be about
- **Information:** the information supports the point; it proves the point right
- **Explanation:** the explanation analyzes the information and ties the information back to the point

THE “P” IN PIE: POINT

- What is the paragraph about?
- What claim is being made?
- Should be an opinion, not a fact
- It is ARGUABLE
- The point of the paragraph shows its purpose.
- As a writer, you should clearly communicate your purpose to the readers.

WHAT IS POINT?

- Often, the point is referred to as the **TOPIC SENTENCE**.
- The topic sentence states the point of the individual paragraph.
- The topic sentence also states how the paragraph develops the topic sentence.
- Therefore, the topic sentence/point is a great **TOOL** for both you and your readers.
- Example: The Twilight series consists of bad movies based on even worse novels.

WHAT DO TOPIC SENTENCES (POINTS) LOOK LIKE?

- “In modern day trends, the word wicked cannot be used with a negative connotation.”
- “Though longboards and shortboards differ in style and performance, they relate in figure and purpose.”
- “A little brother that wants to be just like his older brother kind of messes up the older brother’s plans of solitude

THE “I” IN PIE: INFORMATION

- The writer must include information.
- The information is the evidence used to support/develop the point (the topic sentence or thesis statement).

WHAT IS GOOD INFORMATION?

- **Types of information:**
 - **Personal experience**
 - **Statistics, quotations from published books/articles/journals/databases**
 - **Surveys**
 - **Observations**
 - **Facts**
- ❖ **One type of information is not inherently better than another.**

MORE ON INFORMATION

➤ All information must be:

- Accurate
- Credible
- Relevant
- Sufficient
- Example: During all four films, the main characters, Bella and Edward are stiff, awkward and show no chemistry. The scene where Bella is trying to seduce Edward is ridiculous and downright laughable.

THE “E” IN PIE: EXPLANATION

- All information has to be relevant. Your explanation is the part of your paragraph that shows HOW the information relates back to the point (topic sentence).
- The explanation should be as long as the information itself.
- In the explanation, tell readers how the information you provided proves that the point you made is correct; connect the information to the topic sentence

MORE ON EXPLANATION

The explanation is a two part process:

- 1. Restate the information in different words:
accurately represent the source information but give it your own spin**
- 2. Interpret, analyze and explain how the information supports your point.**

EVEN MORE ON EXPLANATION

- In the explanation, you want to analyze by:
- Identifying important information relating to your main point.
- Identifying key concepts/ words/ideas and using those same words and concepts in your analysis.
- Tell us HOW the information you gave proves your point/ supports your topic sentence.
- Example: Clearly, the actors' bad performances and the unlikely and highly awkward scenes make Twilight a horrible series of films.

THE END.

Remembering and using the P.I.E method will make
your writing strong.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
WRITE
WELL**