Writing a paragraph

Name _____ Date _____

I can write a paragraph with a topic sentence, details and a closing.

1 Build it like a hamburger

A paragraph is a group of sentences about one main idea. It is built like a hamburger: a topic sentence on top, three details in the middle and a closing sentence at the bottom.

Topic sentence
Dogs make great pets.

Detail 1
They are loyal and love their families.

Detail 2
They like to play games such as fetch.

Detail 3
They can even help keep a home safe.

Closing sentence
That is why dogs are such great pets.

2 The paragraph

Dogs make great pets. They are loyal and love their families. They like to play games such as fetch. They can even help keep a home safe. That is why dogs are such great pets.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Put the paragraph in order

Name _____ Date _____

I can find the topic sentence, the details and the closing.

1 Number the sentences 1 to 5

1 is the topic sentence. 5 is the closing.

- [ ] That is why I love fall.
- [ ] Fall is a wonderful season.
- [ ] We can jump in big piles of leaves.
- [ ] The air feels cool and fresh.
- [ ] The leaves turn red, orange and yellow.

2 Number the sentences 1 to 5

1 is the topic sentence. 5 is the closing.

- [ ] Students water the plants every day.
- [ ] There is always something happening in the garden.
- [ ] Our school garden is a busy place.
- [ ] Bees buzz from flower to flower.
- [ ] Tomatoes grow tall in the sun.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Plan your paragraph

Name _____ Date _____

I can plan a paragraph before I write it.

1 Topic: My favorite place

Or choose: The best day of the year or How to make a sandwich.

Topic sentence

_____

_____

Detail 1

_____

_____

Detail 2

_____

_____

Detail 3

_____

_____

Closing sentence

_____

_____

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Write your paragraph

Name _____ Date _____

I can write a paragraph from my plan.

1 Title: My favorite place

Indent the first line.

Check my writing

- [ ] I started with a topic sentence.
- [ ] I wrote three details about the topic.
- [ ] I ended with a closing sentence.
- [ ] Every sentence starts with a capital and ends with a period.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: writing a paragraph

1 Paragraph 1 in order

Numbers from top to bottom: 5, 1, 4, 3, 2.

Fall is a wonderful season. The leaves turn red, orange and yellow. The air feels cool and fresh. We can jump in big piles of leaves. That is why I love fall.

2 Paragraph 2 in order

Numbers from top to bottom: 4, 5, 1, 2, 3.

Our school garden is a busy place. Bees buzz from flower to flower. Tomatoes grow tall in the sun. Students water the plants every day. There is always something happening in the garden.

3 Plan and write

Answers will vary. Check that the topic sentence names the topic, each detail tells more about it, and the closing sums it up in new words.

4 Teaching tip

Use real bread and fillings, or paper cutouts, to build the hamburger. Children physically put the topic sentence on top and the closing at the bottom before they write.

Watch for: Details that drift away from the topic. Read each detail with the topic sentence and ask, "Does this tell more about the topic?"

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