



## Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf Cellule E-learning



### English – Level 2

## – Lesson 01 – Key Components of a Paragraph

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**Objectives of the Lesson:** This lesson has been designed to provide a student-friendly account with regard to English paragraphs. It will, more peculiarly, look at a range of defining aspects that most basic English paragraph types share fully. In the process, it will be made abundantly clear to the students how they can successfully engage in the construction of proper paragraph paragraphs.

## 1. What is a Paragraph?

A paragraph is a collection of sentences; dealing with a single topic, a main idea, a theme or a set of specific thoughts on a particular subject. The topic of a paragraph is the most general idea; all of the sentences are about the topic. Furthermore, a paragraph should be unified keeping one idea to one paragraph, *coherent* and well-developed. A paragraph should be double-spaced and it must begin with an indentation. In case there is only one single paragraph (on its own), it usually has a title. Basically, the length of a paragraph does not depend on the number of sentences, but rather on its ideas.

## 1. Key Components of a Paragraph

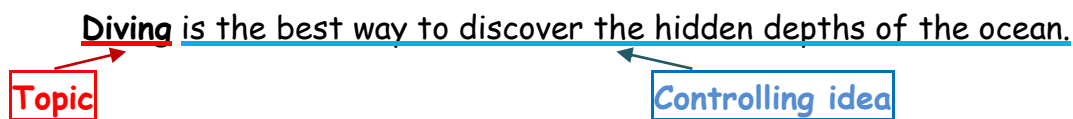
When it comes to the body of a regular paragraph and its organization, it mainly made up of three major elements a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence.

## 1. TOPIC SENTENCE

The *topic sentence* is the *initial sentence* in a paragraph; it is usually the *first or second sentence* of the *paragraph*. The topic sentence states the *main idea* of the paragraph and explains briefly what the paragraph will provide about the topic; this explanation is called the *controlling idea*. The controlling idea must tell the reader exactly what the rest of the paragraph will be about. The controlling idea must be *short and specific*; otherwise, the topic sentence will be unclear.

### Example of a Topic Sentence:

Diving is the best way to discover the hidden depths of the ocean.



## 2. SUPPORTING SENTENCES

*Supporting sentences* are the *middle sentences* of the paragraph. They provide details such as *explanations and examples* that expand on or support the topic sentence. In other terms, every supporting sentence in the paragraph must help the development of the topic sentence

### Example of supporting Sentences:

Diving is the best way to discover the hidden depths of the ocean. In the old days, swimming and sailing were some of the most enjoyable activities, but today diving has become the real deal. We can look at what is under the surface and

see the hidden wonders of nature. Therefore, I have decided to go on a diving trip with my friend. I am very excited!

Supporting sentences

### 3. CONCLUDING SENTENCE

The concluding sentence often expresses the same idea as the topic sentence but in an alternative way. The concluding sentence of a paragraph usually reminds the reader of the topic and controlling idea of the paragraph. In other words, the concluding sentence restates the main idea in a different form. It can start with a transition such as “to sum up” or “in conclusion”. A concluding sentence is sometimes used in longer paragraphs to sum up the ideas presented.

#### Example of a Concluding Sentence:

**Indentation** **Title** → Diving

Diving is the best way to discover the hidden depths of the ocean. In the old days, swimming and sailing were some of the most enjoyable activities, but today diving has become the real deal, through which we can look at what is under the surface and see the hidden wonders of nature. Therefore, I have decided to go on a diving trip with my friend. I am very excited! I like to discover nature, so I think that diving deep into the ocean is my new passion.

Concluding sentence

### **Let's Practice!**

\*Identify the **topic** and the **controlling idea** in each of the following sentence

1. My teacher is very kind to her students.
2. Every college student should take online courses.
3. Dogs are a good companion for humans.
4. Video games are addictive.

\* Are the following sentences **topic sentences** or **supporting sentences**?

1. Bees have a long straw called a proboscis.
2. Bees are interesting insects.
3. Bees produce honey.
4. Bees have a major role in pollination.

## REFERENCES

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