Paragraph Detectives

What is each sentence really doing?



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Today we will...

WE ARE LEARNING TO

- Analyze a paragraph sentence by sentence
- Explain how sentences develop a key concept
- Name topic, evidence, analysis, and wrap-up

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- ✓ I can label each sentence's job
- ✓ I can explain how one sentence refines another

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DID YOU KNOW?

No rule says a paragraph must be five sentences.

Strong writers split paragraphs by idea, one clear idea per paragraph.



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Key words

topic sentence

opens the paragraph with the main idea

evidence

facts, quotes, or data that prove the point

analysis

your thinking that explains what evidence means

wrap-up / link

closing that connects the idea forward

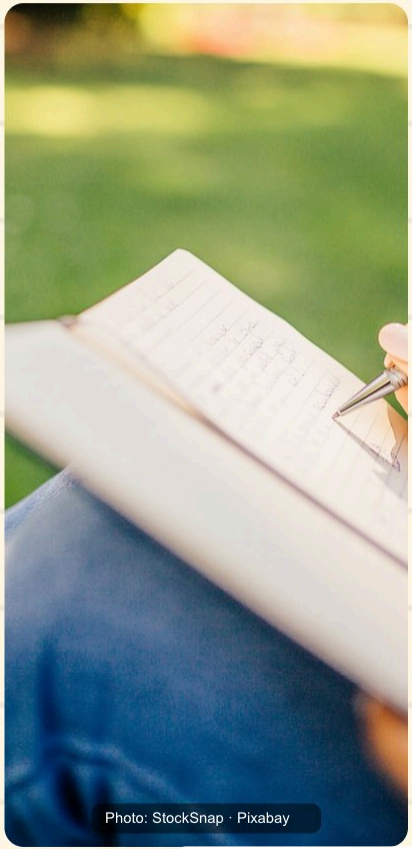


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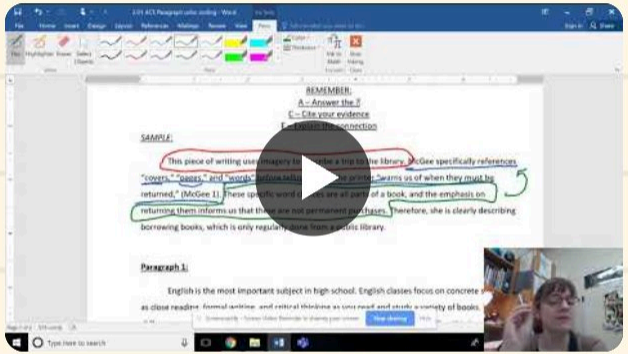
What could this be?

How is this tower like a strong paragraph?



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Watch: Answer-Cite-Explain in Action



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Listen for Answer: what is the point?
- Spot Cite: what proof is used?
- Notice Explain: how does it refine the idea?

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Evidence vs. Explanation

Evidence

- Shows facts: who, what, when
- Comes from a source or text
- Develops idea with proof

Explanation

- Shows thinking: how and why
- Refines meaning of the facts
- Makes the point convincing

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Watch: PEEL Sentence Jobs



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Find Point that starts the idea
- Track how Evidence grows it
- Catch Explanation and Link that refine it

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Your task

Label sentence jobs in our model paragraph about sleep and focus.

1. Read: Lack of sleep hurts teen focus. Survey shows tired students score lower on quizzes. This happens because sleep helps the brain store learning. So steady sleep builds stronger focus.
2. Label 1 Topic, 2 Evidence, 3 Analysis, 4 Wrap-up.
3. Discuss: How does sentence 3 refine sentence 2?

15 min

In pairs

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BIG IDEA

Every sentence has a job: start it, prove it, grow it, close it.

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Think, pair, share

Which sentence in our paragraph most refines the key concept? Why?

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True or false?

Every paragraph should focus on one main idea.

Evidence speaks for itself without analysis.

The topic sentence is usually first or early.

A wrap-up just repeats the same words.

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