Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Paragraph Power

How sentences build and refine an idea.

About 60 minutes Level ★★★☆☆



How a Paragraph Builds an Idea

A strong paragraph develops one clear **key** concept. Each sentence has a **job** that moves the idea forward, and good readers can **analyze** what each sentence adds.



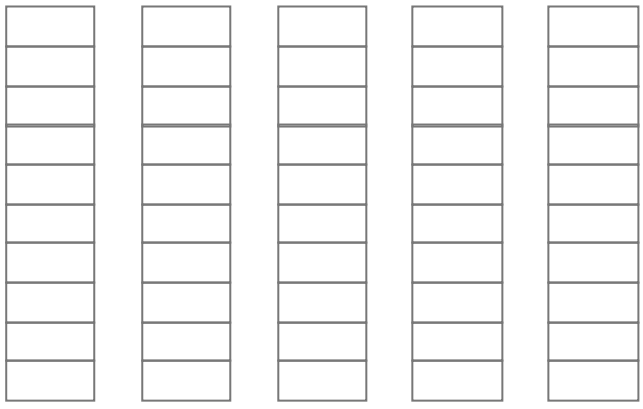
- A **topic** sentence at the start states the main idea and key concept.
- Supporting sentences give **evidence** such as facts, examples, or details.
- Explanation sentences interpret evidence and **refine** the meaning by making it narrower or clearer.
- A **concluding** sentence sums up the point and links back to the main idea.

Task A

Ask classmates, tally answers, then color squares to show results. Think about which sentence job is hardest to spot.

Which paragraph part is hardest for you to find in reading?

Answer	Tally	Total
Topic sentence		
Evidence sentence		
Explanation sentence		
Concluding sentence		
Link to next idea		



What does your chart show?

.....

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Zoom In Closely

Read a model text and map how Paragraph 2 works.

Key words

topic sentence: first sentence that states the main idea

explanation: sentence that tells what evidence means

transition: word or sentence that connects ideas

evidence: fact or example that supports the idea

refine: make an idea clearer or more exact

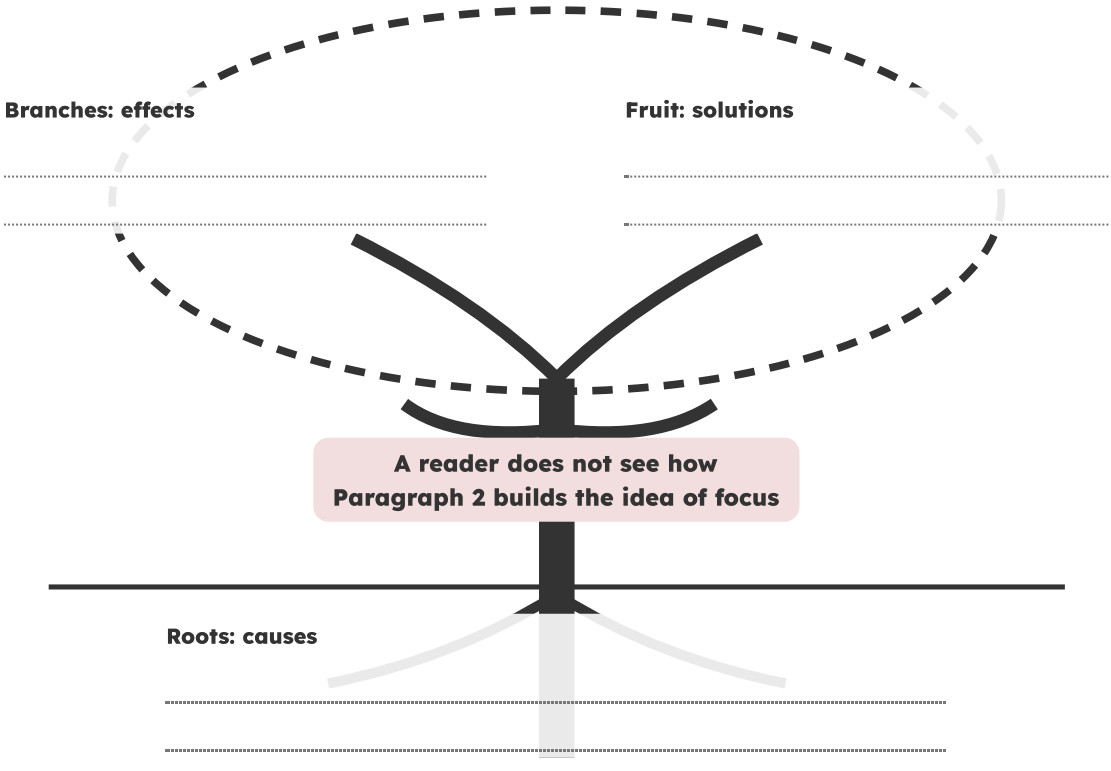
key concept: the most important idea in a paragraph

Why Focus Matters

1. Attention works like a flashlight in a dark room. You can only shine it on one small area at a time. When you try to shine it everywhere at once, you see nothing clearly. Scientists who study learning say this limited focus is normal, not a flaw.
2. Focused practice builds stronger memory because it forces the brain to repeat one clear **signal**. For example, a student who rereads math notes for twenty minutes without checking a phone remembers more the next day. This happens because each repeat without interruption tells the brain the information matters. So focus does not just save time; it signals **value** and refines a vague idea of trying hard into a specific habit of removing distractions.
3. Distractions break that signal. Each alert or quick check splits the beam again. Research on middle school study habits shows that students who study with messages turned on take longer to finish and recall less. The loss comes not only from lost minutes but from restarting the thought each time.
4. The good news is that focus can be trained in short steps. Start with a clear goal, work for fifteen minutes, then take a short break. Keep only what you need on your desk. Over weeks, these small choices turn scattered effort into steady attention that holds during tests and homework.

Task B

Reread Paragraph 2 above. Fill the tree to show how its sentences develop the concept of focused practice.



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Fact or Opinion?

Sort claims about paragraphs and explain your thinking.

⚖ Task C

/7

Tick fact or opinion for each line. A fact can be checked in the text. Then explain how you can tell for one answer.

Statement	Fact	Opinion
A **topic** sentence states the main idea of a paragraph.		
Paragraph 2 says focused practice builds stronger **memory**.		
Removing distractions is the **best** habit any student can build.		
Paragraph 3 says students with messages on take **longer** to finish.		
The concluding sentence in Paragraph 2 is **boring** and useless.		
An **explanation** sentence tells how evidence supports the key concept.		

How can you tell that one of them is an opinion?

.....

.....

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Paragraph Bingo Time

Play bingo with the key terms for paragraph analysis.

⊙ Task D

Listen for the definitions. Cover the matching term on your board. Win with three in a row.

BINGO 1

 development	topic sentence	 refine
analysis	key concept	 evidence
 explanation	transition	conclusion

BINGO 2

 evidence	topic sentence	analysis
 development	key concept	 refine
 explanation	conclusion	transition

BINGO 3

 development	key concept	 explanation
conclusion	analysis	 refine
transition	topic sentence	 unity

BINGO 4

 evidence	 explanation	transition
key concept	topic sentence	conclusion
analysis	 refine	 unity

Caller: topic sentence · evidence · explanation · conclusion · transition · key concept · analysis · development · unity · refine

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Explain Your Analysis

Write a letter explaining how sentences build an idea.

Task E

Use Paragraph 2 from page 2. Explain its structure and the role of its sentences.

Date: _____

Dear study partner,

Say which paragraph you analyzed and what the key concept is. Starter: In Paragraph 2, the key concept is...

Explain the role of two specific sentences and how they develop or refine the idea.

Close with one revision tip that would make the paragraph even clearer.

Yours sincerely, _____

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can name the parts of a paragraph.	☹	😐	☺
I can explain how a sentence develops a key concept.	☹	😐	☺
I can tell a fact from an opinion about a text.	☹	😐	☺

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Answer sheet: Paragraph Power

Task A

Answers will vary.

Task B

Answers will vary, e.g. causes: topic sentence missed, evidence skimmed, refinement ignored; effects: reader thinks it is only about phones, misses the main point; solutions: label each sentence job, restate the refinement in your own words

Task C

1. Fact
2. Fact
3. Opinion
4. Fact
5. Opinion
6. Fact

Task D

A game: no written answers.

Task E

Answers will vary.

Pictures: Microsoft Fluent Emoji (MIT); Illustration: 422737 · Pixabay; Pictograms: Sergio Palao, ARASAAC (arasaac.org) · CC BY-NC-SA; Illustration: Mohamed_hassan · Pixabay; Drawing: Google Inc. · BSD · Wikimedia Commons