

Springboard: Academic skills: writing an academic paragraph



Aims: today we'll be...

Getting to know each other a little
Looking at writing an academic paragraph
Exploring ways of putting source material
into our own words
Identifying ways of citing information
successfully
Reflecting on what we have learnt

Instructions



How are you feeling about coming to UWTSD?

0 responses



2 truths, 1 lie

✓
I come from
Switzerland

✓
I have met
the Queen

✗
I was in a
band at
university

Find someone who...

What is an academic paragraph?

An academic paragraph is a self-contained portion of academic writing, typically consisting of a topic sentence, supporting sentences with evidence or explanations, and often a concluding sentence.

It serves as a unit for presenting and developing a single idea or point within an academic essay or research paper, contributing to the overall structure and coherence of the scholarly work (Pedada, 2023).

Before we start, we need to know:

Why we are reading (purpose)

How to think critically and question what we are
reading

How to choose relevant information from a
source to support our work

How to write coherently in our own words

How to cite / reference source material
appropriately

What does an academic paragraph look like?

1. Topic Sentence

- Definition: The topic sentence introduces the main idea of the paragraph.
- Example: "Effective time management is crucial for academic success."

What does an academic paragraph look like?

2. Supporting Sentences

- Definition: These sentences provide evidence, examples, and details to support the topic sentence.
- Example: "According to Cottrell (2019), students who plan their study time effectively are more likely to achieve higher grades."

What does an academic paragraph look like?

3. Analysis

- Definition: This part explains how the evidence supports the topic sentence.
- Example: "This suggests that by organizing their schedules, students can allocate sufficient time for each subject, reducing last-minute stress and improving overall performance."

What does an academic paragraph look like?

4. Concluding Sentence

- Definition: The concluding sentence summarizes the paragraph and links it to the next one.
- Example: "Therefore, developing good time management skills is essential for students aiming to excel academically."

Example Paragraph with In-Text Citation

Effective time management is crucial for academic success. According to Cottrell (2019), students who plan their study time effectively are more likely to achieve higher grades. This suggests that by organizing their schedules, students can allocate sufficient time for each subject, reducing last-minute stress and improving overall performance. Therefore, developing good time management skills is essential for students aiming to excel academically.

What does an academic paragraph look like

Task - Now, it's your turn!

Reflection - how do you feel about the following statements...

I am happy with my paragraph writing skills

I can highlight the different parts of a paragraph

I know what a topic sentence is and does

I know what a concluding sentence is and does

I know what supporting sentences are and how to use them

I know what cohesion means

I know how to paraphrase / summarise source material

I know how to use in-text citations appropriately

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

Thank you for taking part!

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