

PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

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A paragraph is a group of sentences that is put together to convey one main idea. The first line of a paragraph is indented.

Paragraphs have three main parts: topic sentence, supporting sentences, summary or transitional concluding sentence.

Example paragraph:

There are two reasons why people have dogs for pets. First, dogs offer companionship. A dog can offer unconditional support to someone. Dogs have a sense and often know when their owners are sad; dogs cuddle up to their owners and make the owners feel better just with a snuggle. Another reason is for security. Dogs can seem vicious to strangers, and that fear might keep intruders away, rendering the owner safe. Having a dog might be the best choice a person can make.

Paragraph Parts	Examples	Explanation
Topic sentence	There are two reasons why people have dogs for pets.	Topic sentences state the paragraph's main idea. Usually fall at the beginning of a paragraph. Topic sentence has two parts: <u>topic + point the writer is trying to make</u> .
Major Supporting Details	First, dogs offer companionship. Another reason is for security.	Support topic sentence. Usually begin with a transition word.
Minor Supporting Details	Dogs have a sense and often know when their owners are sad; dogs cuddle up to their owners and make the owners feel better just with a snuggle. Dogs can seem vicious to strangers, and that fear might keep intruders away, rendering the owner safe.	Support the major supporting detail sentence. Offer specific and vivid examples.
Summary sentence	Having a dog might be the best choice a person can make.	Summarize the paragraph content. Reinforce the topic sentence. Summary sentences can also segue into the next paragraph in essays.
