UNDERSTANDING PARAGRAPHS STRUCTURE
WHAT IS A PARAGRAPH?

Paragraphs are basic structural units of extended prose writing.

A paragraph can identify an idea, develop it with illustrations and details and reinforce with a conclusion.
FORMATTING PARAGRAPHS

- In a work written by hand always indent the first line of the paragraph.
- In a work typewritten and double-spaced, always indent the first line of the paragraph.
- In a work typewritten and single-spaced, a new paragraph is set off from the previous one by double-spacing.
WHY PARAGRAPHS?

A new indentation is a sign that a new idea will begin, or the thoughts on the page will now change direction.
A paragraph rarely has only one sentence. Usually it has three to eight sentences of varying lengths, all focused on one main idea.
THE TOPIC SENTENCE

- The main idea of the paragraph is expressed in a single sentence called the **topic sentence**, which is often the first sentence of the paragraph.

- All other sentences in the paragraph relate to the ideas of the **topic sentence**, as well as to each other.
Expository prompt: Choose one theme from the novel and use the title, characterization, plot, point of view, and/or symbol as supporting detail...Include one example of onomatopoeia and circle example.
**Expository paragraphs** have a definite structure that helps to organise complicated thoughts logically. Their structure makes it easy to explain things.
EXPOSITORY PARAGRAPHs

The expository paragraph structure encourages you to:

● prioritise your ideas

● find support for these ideas

● order that support so that it makes sense.
Begin with a **topic sentence** that’s broad enough to include all the ideas of the paragraph, but narrow enough to be limited to a single paragraph.

*Ex. Overloading your schedule with too many hours of class may cause you to achieve less than you hoped*
The topic sentence is then developed by the first of two supporting ideas:

First, you may spend so many hours attending class that you have very little time for the research and homework that university classes require.
The supporting idea is then developed with an illustration:

*Felicia, a mother of twins, added extra hours of class to her schedule because she wanted to finish her degree as soon as possible. However, the extra hours gave her no time at all to study, and she had to re-sit a course, thus losing time instead of gaining it.*
ANOTHER SUPPORTING IDEA

Now comes the next supporting idea for the topic sentence:

Second, the extra classes may require group work

The words first and second add cohesion to the paragraph, showing that the supporting ideas relates to the topic sentence.
The second supporting idea needs an illustration:

A student who is in class every hour of the day finds it very difficult to meet with other members of the group. This is frustrating to both the stressed student and the group members, who may become hostile. The grade for the whole group may suffer.
A concluding sentence ties up the thoughts and drives home the main idea:

*Thus, consider carefully the number of courses you sign up for; an overload may spell disaster.*
EXPOSITORY PARAGRAPH SCHEME

- Topic sentence
- Supporting idea
- Illustration(s)
- Supporting idea
- Illustration(s)
- Conclusion
A writer may adjust the structure of his/her expository paragraph.

- Topic sentence
- Supporting idea
- Illustration
  - Illustration
  - Illustration
- Conclusion
Another paragraph scheme may look like this:

- Topic sentence
- Supporting idea
- Supporting idea
- Supporting idea
- Conclusion
VARIETY, THE SPICE OF LIFE

The model structure of the paragraph is like the basic design of a cabinet or dress, or like a favourite recipe. Once you have mastered it, you can vary it to suit your purpose and audience.
Progressive Paragraph

You are now going to practice writing an expository paragraph. Our purpose for this exercise is to understand the structure. For this exercise and for the written assignment you will use structure that follows.
On Your Own

Choose one theme that you have thoughts about from the novel.

- Responsibility
- Superficiality
- Innocence
- Integrity
- Writer’s choice
**Examples**

- Sandra Cisneros traces the struggle of coming of age through a series of vignettes in *The House on Mango Street*.

- Walter Lee Younger (*A Raisin in the Sun* by Hansberry) learns that self-respect cannot be bought; it must come from within.
Write a clear topic sentence in which you identify the theme in relationship to the work.
Find Paragraph Partner

Do you have a main idea and have you identified the work?

Share your topic sentences
THINK OF TWO SUPPORTING IDEAS

The topic sentence is then developed by the first of two supporting ideas:

Supporting Idea ONE

Illustrate your idea with example
With the same paragraph partner

Think of two supporting ideas about your topic sentence.
Think of two supporting ideas

● The topic sentence is then developed by the first of two supporting ideas:

Supporting Idea TWO

Illustrate your idea with example
Help each other

Now write out the supporting idea sentence

Write out a sentence to illustrate that idea.

Write a sentence stating your second supporting idea.

Write out one more sentence to illustrate that idea.
A concluding sentence ties up the thoughts and drives home the main idea:
Check the Expository Formatting
Share your expository paragraphs

Expository Challenge!

Include an example of Onomatopoeia that sounds natural to the paragraph.