

WRITING EFFECTIVE PARAGRAPHS

You know your paper needs an introduction and a conclusion, but what about all the stuff that comes in between? To write successfully, you need effective paragraphs in the body of your essay. Effective paragraphs organize your argument and provide evidence for your claims. The basic parts of a paragraph include a topic sentence, evidence and discussion, and a concluding sentence.

Topic Sentence:

- The topic sentence introduces the topic of the paragraph while connecting back to the thesis and/or previous paragraph. The topic sentence offers a summary of what is to come while also situating the paragraph within your argument or claim.
 - Example: Not only do dogs make superior pets when compared to cats, but dogs also surpass other small, furry animals when it comes to bonding with humans.

Evidence & Discussion:

- To support your argument, include evidence and discussion of that evidence within the body paragraphs. Use 1-3 sentences of explanation for every piece of evidence that links to the main idea of your paper.
 - Example: [Topic Sentence] While other animals may be more intelligent than dogs, none appear to bond as well with humans. [Evidence] Though historians cannot pinpoint the exact moment when humankind began domesticating the four-legged creatures that would one day become a household fixture, research from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society suggests that this bond began between early nomads and the wolves in their environments. [Discussion of Evidence] Domestication of many other companion animals began much later and with arguably less ease.

Concluding Sentence:

- The concluding sentence wraps up the paragraph and can provide transition material for the next paragraph. The concluding sentence also helps situate the paragraph in your paper and ties the paragraph's material back to the theme of the paper.
 - Example: Historians and scientists alike have demonstrated the longevity and staying power of the connection between canines and humans, but the evidence doesn't end there.

For more information on writing, visit a [writing tutor](#). All appointments are available in-person at the Student Success Center, located in the Library, or online. The information used in this handout was retrieved from: Grieves, D. (2017, June 20). Pet Myths: Are Dogs Really Man's Best Friend? Retrieved from <https://www.petmd.com/dog/behavior/pet-myths-are-dogs-really-mans-best-friend>