

Advanced 1
Unit 3 Writing

Different Types of Paragraphs

	PARAGRAPH TYPE	PURPOSE	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TOPIC SENTENCE
1	Classification	Explains a subject by breaking it into categories or groups	- States the subject clearly - May use words such as <i>categories, groups, types, or kinds</i>
2	Comparison	Shows the similarities between two subjects	- Mentions both subjects - Focuses on similarities
3	Contrast	Shows the differences between two subjects	- Mentions both subjects - Focuses on differences
4	Process (Directional)	Provides the reader with specific steps and instructions to do, make, or repair sth	- Orders the reader how to do sth - Focuses on procedures
5	Process (Informational)	Provides the reader with a clear understanding as to how a system or a procedure works	- States the procedures in a system - Focuses on procedures
6	Cause	Shows the reasons for an action or event	- States the subject clearly - Focuses on reasons
7	Effect	Shows the results of an action or event	- States the subject clearly - Focuses on results
8	Narration (First Person)	Tells a story about a specific event in the writer's life	- Uses " <i>I</i> or <i>We</i> " in the story - Focuses on stories
9	Narration (Third Person)	Tells a story about a specific event that happened to another person	- Does not use the writer's character in the story - Focuses on stories

Paragraph 1

The Suez Canal and the Panama Canal have similar histories. Today many tourists visit both canals. The same Frenchman, de Lesseps, controlled the initial building of both canals. The Suez Canal was begun in 1859 by the Suez Canal Company. This company was controlled by the French. Likewise, the French bought a Colombian canal-building company in 1881 in order to build the Panama Canal. Americans finally finished that canal. In the end, however, both canals finally came under control of the countries in which they are located. Egypt gained control of the Suez Canal in 1957 by fighting France and Britain. Panama gained control over its canal peaceably in 1977. These similarities took place about 20 years apart and provided the world with two important waterways.



The Suez Canal



The Panama Canal

A Comparison Paragraph

Paragraph 2

It is easy to be a winner. A winner can show his joy publicly. He can laugh and sing and dance and celebrate his victory. People love to be with winners. Winners are never lonely. Unlike winners, losers are the lonely ones of the world. It is difficult to face defeat with dignity. Losers cannot show their disappointment publicly. They cannot cry or grieve about their defeat. They may suffer privately, but they must be composed in public. They have nothing to celebrate and no one to share their sadness.



A Contrast Paragraph

Paragraph 3

Late one Sunday afternoon, I was returning from a weekend trip to St. Louis. I was driving, and my two closest friends were asleep in the back of the car. We were traveling north on a four-lane divided highway. On the outskirts of Elmhurst the highway splits into two lanes to Collinsville and two lanes to University City. I was heading for University City. I approached the split carefully. Suddenly, another driver decided to change his direction, and he swerved from the Collinsville lane to the University City lane. He drove his car directly in front of me. I hit the brakes hard in order to avoid a collision. I had some very anxious moments, but I learned an important lesson. One must drive defensively.



First Person Narration Paragraph

There are several basic methods of reasoning. Inductive reasoning begins with the specific and moves to the general. Deductive reasoning begins with the general and moves to the specific. Comparison (or analogy) studies likenesses and differences. Cause and effect reasoning analyzes results growing out of a given set of circumstances. Still another method of argumentation is to cite the statements of acknowledged authorities on the subject under discussion. This might be called argument by authority.

Classification Paragraph

Some scientists warn that the gradual warming of the Earth's atmosphere, known as the Greenhouse Effect, will cause dramatic changes in the world as we now know it. First of all, because of the increase in temperature of up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the next century, which some believe has already begun, there will be changes in existing patterns of agriculture. Such fertile areas as the U.S. Great Plains may become deserts, while the now arid lands in Saudi Arabia may become grain-producing farmland. Secondly, since rainfall patterns will change, water supplies in some areas will diminish. Experts predict, for instance,



that the rice fields in southeast Asia will someday require irrigation to sustain crops. Changes in water levels will also be responsible for altered living patterns. Coastal areas, such as Florida and the Netherlands, will experience such a dramatic rise in water levels that they will fall below sea level and become uninhabitable. In other areas, like the Great Lakes, water levels will fall; consequently, they will no longer be able to support industry with energy supplies and a ready means of transportation. Since most experts on the Greenhouse Effect are convinced that it is irreversible, they advise us to plan now for how best to cope with a changing world.

Effect Paragraph

Sample Question:

Read the following paragraph, and answer the questions that follow.

Doing a term paper involves both careful research on a topic and a methodical approach to the writing of the material. First, consult the important and up-to-date books and articles related to your subject. ❶ Next, find out the style of writing that your instructor wants; also find out details about length, organization, footnoting, and bibliography that will be part of the presentation of your paper. ❷ Then write a draft of the paper as quickly as you can, without using notes or bibliography. ❸ Before you go any further, review what you have written to see if you have begun to develop a point of view about your subject or an attitude toward your topic. ❹ Finally, write a draft of your paper that includes all of the important information about your subject, a draft that includes your footnotes and your bibliography.

21. What kind of paragraph is it?
 - a. Classification.
 - b. Process.
 - c. Narration.
 - d. Cause and effect.
22. How has the body of the paragraph been developed?
 - a. Through examples.
 - b. Through details.
 - c. Through an anecdote.
 - d. Through statistics.
23. Where should the following sentence fit into the paragraph?
This will help you see your ideas and how they can be further developed.
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
24. Which of the following does the above paragraph lack?
 - a. Topic sentence.
 - b. Completeness.
 - c. Major support sentences.
 - d. Concluding sentence.
25. How has coherence been achieved in this paragraph?
 - a. Through transition words.
 - b. Through ascending order.
 - c. Through repetition of key words.
 - d. Through descending order.