



Listen. Speak. Read. Write. Think!

# Five Intentional Paragraphs

- five senses descriptive paragraph
- general/particular/general paragraph
- five w's paragraph
- flashback paragraph
- dialog paragraph



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# Five Senses Paragraph

- Write a paragraph exploring how a theme (a holiday, location, etc.) can be perceived using the five senses.
  - What are you smelling, hearing, tasting, seeing, and feeling?
- Examples Dr. Webster wrote about a rural area:
  - *See the river flowing, the gaggle of geese and goslings*
  - *Hear cattle lowing on the hillside, workers calling to each other*
  - *Feel the heat of the scorching sun, sand in your teeth*
  - *Smell freshly cut hay, lilacs in bloom*
  - *Taste the dust in the air*



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# General/Particular/General Paragraph

- Write a paragraph describing a scene with a general topic and clincher encasing more specific, particular facts.
- Examples of possible general statements:
  - *As we reached the peak, I gazed about.*
  - *The first sight of the scenery overwhelmed us.*
- Examples of particular details from Dr. Webster:
  - *Tall jagged mountains ring the valley, snow covered peaks*
  - *Grassy carpeted foothills, herds of grazing cattle*
  - *Snaking river empties into a lake, reflecting mountain peaks*
  - *Farms demarcated, yellows, browns, and greens*



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# Five W's Paragraph

- Write a paragraph about a theme, answering the five W's.
  - Begin and end with a general statement for a topic and clincher.
- Example answers:
  - Who? *Two friends, Joyce and Carole; best friends since childhood*
  - Where? *On a train in southeastern Asia; flown in from overseas*
  - When? *Their late summer vacation; harvest just beginning*
  - What? *To visit relatives never yet met; both excited and nervous*
  - Why? *A big reunion in their parents' ancestral village; relatives coming from all over the world.*



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# Flashback Paragraph

- Write a paragraph including information about what happened in the past to bring the reader up to speed on the context for what is happening.
  - Flashbacks are often used in narrative writing (fiction/nonfiction).
  - The topic sentence should indicate a character, location and a feeling such as happiness, joy, sadness, anger, or depression.
  - The clincher sentence returns to the location and feeling of the topic.
  - The sentence after the topic signals the time of the flashback.
  - Use past perfect tense ("had") *except* in the topic and clincher.



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# Flashback Paragraph

- Example:
  - *The beast growled at Jack. For nearly a year, Jack had caught glimpses of it stalking through the woods outside his window. He wondered if he had really seen half-formed pawprints on his hikes through the forest. He had thought himself crazy. Now, it stood there, menacing and real.*



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# Dialog Paragraph

- Write a dialog set between two people who are both in the same location or experiencing the same circumstance.
  - Identify the main speaker, and include the thoughts, feelings, and perceptions of only the main speaker.
  - Limit the number of speakers to two, especially for students new to dialog paragraphs.
  - Written dialogs require special punctuation for spoken quotations in a composition because of necessary line breaks for new speakers.
  - Target length can thus be measured in “structural paragraphs”.
  - Dialog paragraphs are useful for practicing alternatives for “said”.



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# Dialog Paragraph

- Example:

*"I'm hungry!" the baby seemed to cry. She wailed louder.  
"I'm trying!" the haggard mother croaked.*