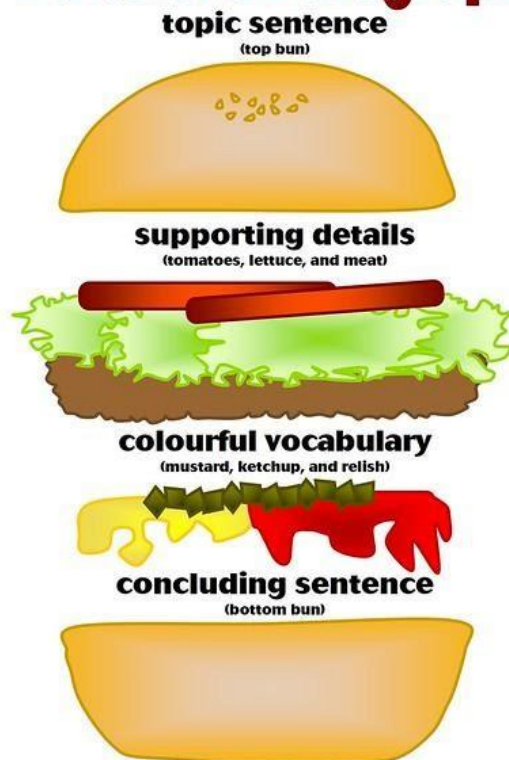


## Introduction

In this unit we will be working on your understanding of what a paragraph is. Broadly, speaking a paragraph is a synthesis of related ideas. It is not a mere collection of thoughts, statements or opinions, instead it is the systematic presentation of information that is logically structured and cohesive. However, you will have to use your prior experience of writing a paragraph in order for us to arrive at a common understanding and a basic method for writing paragraphs. Before we proceed reflect back on the writing you have done before and list what you consider to be the most effective strategies you used when writing. In some ways, a paragraph is like a hamburger in that both are structured in a specific way. Imagine eating a hamburger when the meat and the lettuce are where the buns should be. That would taste weird. It is the same with paragraphs they need the right structure to taste good when your reader digests what you have written.

## Parts of a Paragraph



## Learning Content

Please take a look at this introductory video before moving on to our discussion of the different types of paragraphs.

The SGL Program Module 1 What is students writing?

## Paragraph Structure

GoAnimate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI0avBnnPCc>

## Types of Paragraphs

There are four types of paragraphs. Each of these are used to achieve a certain aim in the writing process.

## Types of Paragraphs

- The **narrative** paragraph
  - tells a story
- The **persuasive** paragraph.
  - tries to convince the audience
- The **descriptive** paragraph
  - describes something
- The **expository** or **explanatory** paragraph
  - gives information or explains something



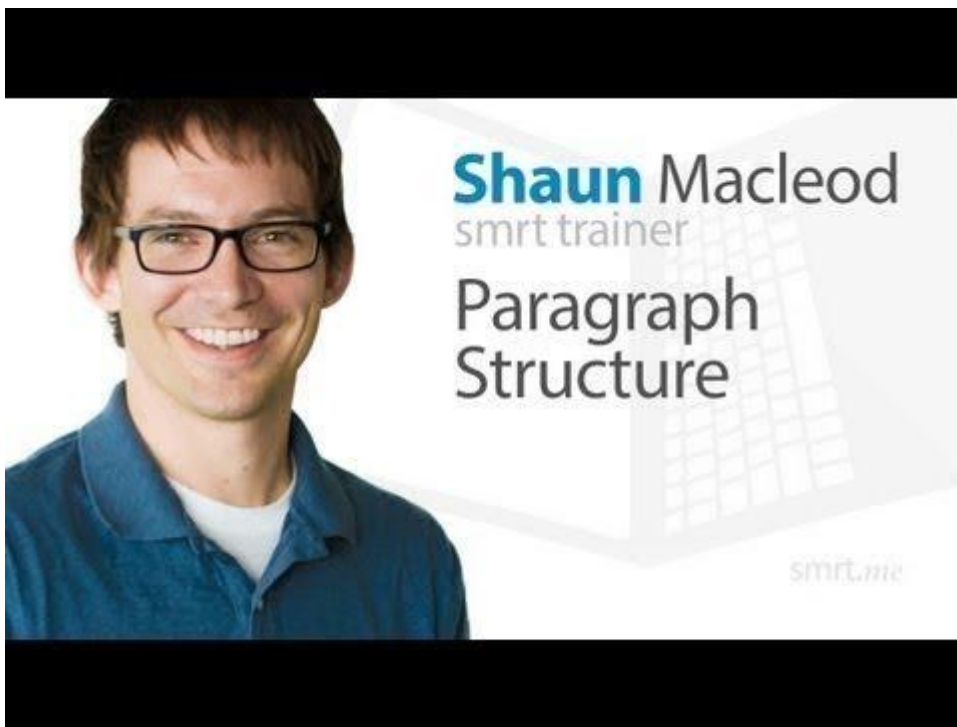
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- Narrative paragraphs are paragraphs, which narrate or tell stories or sequence of events. It uses specific details and does not just give a list of events, as it must have character, setting, conflict and resolution to the conflict. It must clearly indicate the time and space. It must also be clearly ordered.

- Descriptive paragraphs give a description of something or someone. It gives a series of detailed observations. It is challenging to make this paragraph interesting, as it is easy to fall into the trap of just describing. It uses imagery to make it interesting.
- Expository paragraphs provide information about a certain phenomenon. It is informative/explanatory in nature. The challenge of writing an exposition paragraph is your credibility, as you need to prove that you know what you are talking about.
- Persuasive paragraphs convince the reader to take a side by using a direct approach. It needs well researched, analyzed and contextualized information

## Structuring your Paragraph

One of the most challenging aspect of academic writing is the fact that you do not write for yourself. It is therefore imperative that you ensure that you cater for your reader by ensuring that it is easy to understand what you are writing about. You can achieve this through structuring your paragraph in a manner that makes it easy for the reader to get what you are writing about and answering all the questions that a reader has about your idea. Please take a look at the following approach to writing paragraphs before reading further:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLzKqujmdGk>

If it is a daunting task for the reader to get your message, that means that you did not structure your writing well and therefore there is no flow nor unity (*cover in lesson 5 below*). You need to ensure that your paragraph answers 4W's and 1 H i.e. What, Who, Why, When and Where and How. There are three types of sentences that a paragraph needs to have in order for it to be structured well:

- Topic sentence
- Supporting sentences

- Concluding sentence
- The three types of sentences will be dealt with in different units of this module.

## Summary

In this unit, you learned about what are paragraphs. This is important in order for you to understand their structure and purpose. Kindly ensure that you go through all the materials provided for you. This will help you to understand the following weeks work better. In order to improve your paragraph writing you need to practise.