



# ACADEMIC PARAGRAPHS



# WHAT IS A PARAGRAPH?

Collection of ideas

Ideas are all related

Ideas are pulled together with a topic sentence

Ideas are summed up with a concluding sentence



# ELEMENTS OF A PARAGRAPH

## Unity

- Single idea

## Coherence

- Makes the paragraph understandable for the reader

## A Topic Sentence

- Indicates the main idea or main claim of the paragraph

## Adequate Development

- Flesh out your idea

# UNITY

## Keep in One Paragraph

You have one idea and several bits of supporting evidence

You have several points in a single paragraph as long as they relate to the overall topic of the paragraph

## Start a New Paragraph

You start to transition into a new idea

A single points start to get long.  
Consider elaborating on each sub-point and placing them in their own paragraphs.

# COHERENCE

## Logical bridges

- The same idea of a topic is carried over from sentence to sentence
- Successive sentences can be constructed in parallel form

## Verbal bridges

- Key words can be repeated in several sentences
- Synonymous words can be repeated in several sentences
- Pronouns (He, She, etc.) can refer to nouns in previous sentences
- Transition words can be used to link ideas from different sentences



# ONE PARAGRAPH, TWO WAYS

## Without Transitions

Most deaf people have learned American Sign Language, which is the fourth most-used language in the U.S. ASL uses hand movements, posture, and facial expressions to form words. ASL is the first language they learn (“American Sign Language”). These are just some of the ways that deaf people have adapted to lead better lives.

## With Transitions

IN ADDITION, most deaf people have learned American Sign Language, which is the fourth most-used language in the U.S. UNLIKE SPOKEN LANGUAGE, ASL uses hand movements, posture, and facial expressions to form words. FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE BORN DEAF, ASL is the first language they learn (“American Sign Language”). These are just some of the ways that deaf people have adapted to lead better lives.

# TRANSITION WORDS WITHIN A PARAGRAPH

\*For example

\*Similarly

\*Even so

\*Meanwhile

\*Nevertheless

\*In fact

\*Consequently

\*However

\*So

\*In addition

\*As a result

\*Also

\*Additionally

\*Then

\*Without a doubt

\*Too

\*Furthermore

\*Not only

# ADEQUATE DEVELOPMENT

Use examples and illustrations

Cite data (facts, statistics, evidence, details, and others)

Examine testimony (what other people say such as quotes and paraphrases)

Use an anecdote or story

Define terms in the paragraph

Compare and contrast

Evaluate causes and reasons

Examine effects and consequences

Analyze the topic

Describe the topic

Offer a chronology of an event (time segments)





# WHEN TO START A NEW PARAGRAPH



**When you begin a new idea or point**

**To contrast information or ideas**

- sides in a debate
- different points in an argument
- any other difference

**When you are ending your introduction or starting your conclusion**

- Your introductory and concluding material should always be in a new paragraph

# SOURCES

“Basics of Writing an Academic Paragraph and an Academic Essay” Temple University First Year Writing Program Handout, 2012

<https://www.teachercreated.com/blog/tag/label/>

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<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/student-hub/resources/financial-support/funding-travel-abroad/jaunt-around-south-france/>

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