

Critical Thinking Skills

How to Write a Paragraph

Skills For Critical Thinking	Chapters											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
LEVEL 1 Remembering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define, Describe, Identify, Label, List, Match, Name, State 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 2 Understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe, Discuss, Explain, Paraphrase, Restate, Summarize 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 3 Applying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predict, Project, Provide, Relate, Report; Show 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4 Analysing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illustrate, Infer, Outline, Point Out, Prioritize, Recognize 	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	
LEVEL 5 Evaluating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appraise, Compare and Contrast, Conclude, Decide, Support 	✓				✓			✓				✓
LEVEL 6 Creating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Categorize, Compare, Compose, Contrast, Create; Design; Revise 				✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



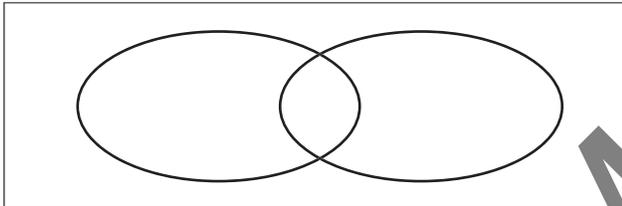
Using Graphic Organizers for Prewriting

Matching: Draw a line from the graphic organizer to the written description of how it is used.

5 W'S CHART

- What** happened?
- Who** was there?
- Why** did it happen?
- When** did it happen?
- Where** did it happen?

VENN DIAGRAM



SENSORY CHART

- Subject:**
- Sight:**
- Sound:**
- Smell:**
- Touch:**
- Taste:**

CAUSE AND EFFECT CHART

Cause	Effect

TIMELINE

____/____/____/____/____/____/

1. A diagram made up of two or more intersecting circles representing relationships among concepts. It is a good way to compare and contrast two things and to organize your thoughts for writing.
2. A type of graphic organizer that lets the writer think about and list the "Who, When, Where, What, and Why" of a story or event.
3. A graphic organizer that shows the relationship between two events when one of the events is the reason the other occurred.
4. A graphic organizer showing the key events within a particular period of time.
5. A chart that organizes the details of the sights, tastes, smells, touches, and sounds in a story or event.



Drafting Your Paragraph

Good writing does not just happen magically. All writers must understand that writing is a process with several steps to the goal of a finished composition. We have learned that **prewriting is the first step in the writing process**. Prewriting involves choosing a topic, brainstorming ideas about the topic, and organizing your ideas in order to write sentences and paragraphs.

The second step in the writing process is called drafting. Drafting is the process of putting your ideas on paper as sentences and paragraphs. When you draft, you begin to put all your prewriting ideas about the topic in an understandable order. Sometimes, doing this is called writing your first or rough draft.

As you begin to draft your paragraph, one of your first tasks will be to decide what the **purpose** or reason for your writing will be.

People write for many different reasons. Some of the reasons might be to entertain, to inform, or to persuade an audience.

Another important **job to do** before you write is to decide who your audience will be. A writer's **audience is anyone who reads, sees, or hears a message or composition**. Your audience may be your classmates, your parents, business people, or anyone who happens to read or hear your composition. It is important to know **who** the people are in your audience; **what level of information** they have about your subject; and the **context**, or situation, in which they will be reading your writing.

Finally, as you prepare the first draft of your paragraph, you should always keep in mind that a **good paragraph has three sections** – 1) a **good topic sentence**, 2) three or more **supporting or detail sentences**, and 3) a well-written **summary or closing sentence**.



The Writing Watch Dog says,
“A topic sentence states what you want your readers to know, believe, or understand after reading your paragraph. Detail or supporting sentences are the sentences in the middle of the paragraph that tell more about the topic. A closing or summary sentence restates the thoughts in the topic sentence.”



Revising your Paragraph

1. Put a check mark (✓) next to the correct term.

a) _____ is the third step in the writing process.

- A drafting
 B revising
 C prewriting

b) Revision means _____.

- A to write new ideas for the first time.
 B to have super seeing powers
 C to read or review writing for the second time

c) _____ is not one of the things to do when you review your first draft.

- A Make sure you have a closing sentence in each paragraph.
 B Make sure that you have at least six words with more than four syllables in each paragraph.
 C Check that all your sentences focus on the main idea in each paragraph

2. **Circle** the word True if the statement is true. **Circle** the word False if it's false.

a) Style is not very important when you are writing a paragraph or an essay.

True False

b) Using a variety of sentence beginnings is a part of your writing style.

True False

c) Each paragraph must have a purpose.

True False

d) Rubric is not another name for a scoring guide.

True False

e) The first task in the revision process is to rest.

True False

f) Many paragraphs do not need a closing or summary sentence.

True False

g) All supporting detail sentences must focus on the main idea of the paragraph.

True False