

Writing a Paragraph

In second grade, we continue to focus on paragraph writing. I have included a copy of the one paragraph graphic organizer that we are currently using. It was modified to meet the second grade needs and based on the Four Square Writing Method.

To use the graphic organizer, the students are to write a topic sentence in the Topic Sentence area. Then, they are to write three detailed sentences in the designated areas. Finally, they are to write a concluding sentence in the space provided.

Important things to focus on during writing:

- ✓ The topic sentence must introduce to the reader what you will be writing about. It is general whereas the detail sentences will become more specific.
- ✓ The first word of the sentence and all proper nouns must begin with a capital letter.
- ✓ The first sentence of the paragraph should be indented.
- ✓ Complete sentences should be written.
- ✓ Every sentence should end with the appropriate punctuation.
- ✓ The supporting details must support the topic sentence.
- ✓ Use sentences with detail. Avoid continually using short choppy sentences.
- ✓ Avoid using the same word to begin each sentence.
- ✓ Use a variety of word choices. For example, instead of using, "Good" often, choose a different synonym.
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- ✓ Children are encouraged to “sound out” words when spelling. After the paragraph is written, they are encouraged to look the word up in their “Quick Word” dictionaries. Any word that has been on the spelling list previously should be spelled correctly. The majority of students’ rough drafts are edited with the teacher before rewriting.

The students will also experience writing four paragraph essays. We will take a step-by-step approach to these lessons with direct teacher instruction.

I have included a copy of the graphic organizer we will use for writing a single paragraph. Please feel free to print it and use it at home with your child as a practice tool. Follow the guidelines above to help your child create a paragraph that is well focused and written.

Be sure to praise your child for their efforts, as writing is a life-long learning process.

For a copy of the one paragraph graphic organizer, return to the Language Arts Web Page and click on the Graphic Organizer Link.

