

Lesson Name : 14

Lesson Title : Types of Paragraphs

Course Name : English 2 Part 1 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction



If you wanted to build a table, you would probably spend a lot of time picking out the top of the table. After all, it is the most important part of the table. So you would spend a good amount of time deciding how large it should be and what kind of materials to use. However, the table also needs legs to hold it up – otherwise, it is just a board. This is a good way to think about a thesis statement – it is extremely important and you should spend a lot of time on it, but without paragraphs to develop and support the argument that it makes, it is kind of useless.

Three kinds of Paragraphs

There are three kinds of paragraphs in a composition – introductory paragraphs, body paragraphs, and concluding paragraphs. Each type of paragraph is important.

Introductory Paragraph

The first paragraph in any composition is the introduction. In this paragraph, you try to attract the reader's attention, introduce the topic, and convey your main argument. There are many different introduction strategies that can introduce the topic and grab the reader's attention.

You can begin your introduction with ...

- a quotation.
- a concession.
- a paradox.
- a short anecdote or narrative.
- an interesting fact or statistic.
- a series of questions.
- some background information.
- the long-term effects without immediately stating the cause.
- an analogy.
- a definition.

Any of these strategies will get the reader's attention. You need to be sure that whatever strategy you use it is related to your overall topic and thesis.

Body Paragraphs

The body paragraphs make up the majority of your paper. This is where you develop and support the argument you summarized in your thesis statement. There is no limit to the number of body paragraphs you can have as long as they all meet the same criteria:

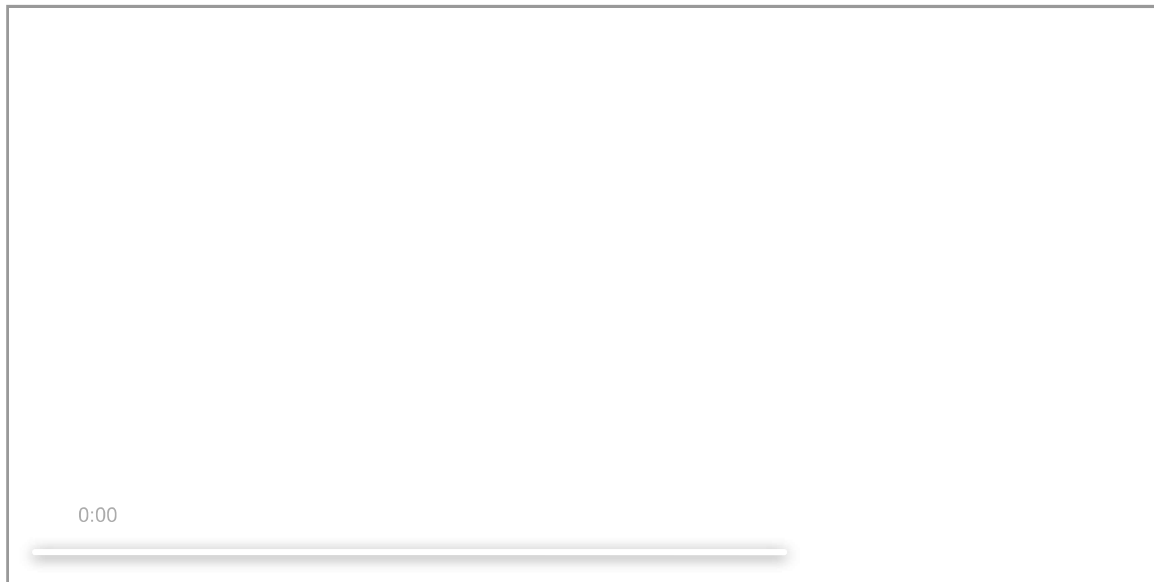
1. Unity – this means each paragraph has only one main idea
2. Coherence – this means the paragraph is consistent
3. Adequate Development – this means that you provide analysis, concrete examples, and quotations and paraphrases to support your main point.

Each paragraph should begin with a topic sentence, kind of like a miniature thesis statement. This sentence should let the reader know the subject of the paragraph.

Start a new paragraph if you are moving on to a new idea, want to contrast ideas, or are writing the introduction or conclusion.

Concluding Paragraphs

The concluding paragraph is the last paragraph of your paper and wraps up the paper as a whole. It should restate your thesis and refer back to the introduction strategy you used. This helps you to bring the composition full circle and will allow you to synthesize your information instead of merely summarizing it.



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