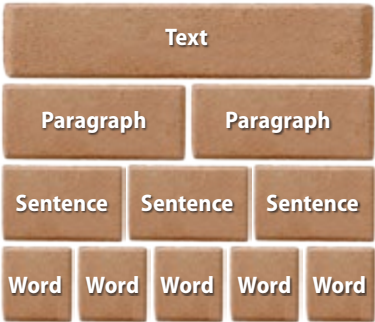


**paragraph** – avsnitt  
**structure** – bygge opp  
**topic sentence** – temasetning, som regel første setning i hvert avsnitt  
**linking words** – tekstbindingsord, f.eks. *first, however, then*  
**make sense** – forstå  
**indent** – her: rykk inn  
**fictional paragraph** – avsnitt i skjønnlitterær tekst



# Paragraphs

A paragraph is a group of sentences about the same topic. You use paragraphs to structure your text and to make it easier for the reader to read and follow your text.

- When you start a new paragraph, write a *topic sentence*. This is often the first sentence in a paragraph, and it tells you what the paragraph is about.
- The sentences after support the topic sentence and give more information.
- Use linking words to help the reader make sense of your text. For example: *first, second, however, in my opinion, sometimes, after a while, suddenly, then*
- Start each new paragraph on a new line. Leave an empty line between paragraphs or indent the first sentence.

## Informative paragraph

The point of an informative paragraph is to give the reader new information or to explain how to do something. Many paragraphs end with a closing sentence to sum up the paragraph.

Topic sentence

→

Most superheroes are easy to recognise because they wear a costume. Superman wears a blue and red costume with a large S on the front. He is one of the ten most recognised people on the planet. Wonder Woman’s costume is red, white and blue like the American flag. Sometimes the costume includes a mask to protect the superhero’s secret identity. As a result, superheroes are often easy to recognize.

Supporting sentences

→

Closing sentence

→

## Fictional paragraph

The point of a fictional paragraph is to help the reader to follow your story.

Topic sentence

→

In a flash, a helicopter was directly overhead. Then, just like you see on TV, this guy was lowered down on a rope thing. We backed inside so he’d have somewhere to land. The rescue guy glanced up. “We only have room for one more person. Have to come back for one y’all!”

Supporting sentences

→

From *Saint Louis Armstrong Beach* by Brenda Woods

# Argumentative paragraph

The point of an argumentative paragraph is often to discuss different aspects of a topic or convince the reader to agree with you. You state your reasons for believing something and write all the facts and examples you can find which support your belief.

**argumentative** – argumenterende  
**different aspects** – ulike sider  
**convince** – overbevise

**Life is constantly changing for all of us.** However, the change can be more dramatic for some. In my opinion, there are many extraordinary stories of how life has changed dramatically, and I will give a few examples in the next paragraphs.  
*Bendik, 15*

← Topic sentence  
← Supporting sentences

**Focus Magazine is not perfect.** Not even close. For instance, the range of topics the magazine focuses on could have been much wider. I suppose one could say that this would make the magazine slightly more difficult to summarise and keep track of for the average student. However, I am convinced that *Focus Magazine* in general would have benefited from it, and become more exciting, colourful and interesting.  
*Markus, 16*

← Topic sentence  
← Supporting sentences

## Activities

1

Finish these topic sentences. Then write informative paragraphs of three to five sentences.

a

“When I started school, I was very nervous about ...”

b

“From doing sports I have learned that ...”

c

“The moment I spotted my new classmate, I understood that ...”

2

Choose some of these topic sentences and write argumentative paragraphs.

a

There are many reasons why you should not smoke.

b

You should read newspapers every day.

c

Lunch is an important social time.

d

Maths is the most challenging subject at school.

e

Basketball is more exciting to watch than football.

f

Homework is good for you.

3

Write a topic sentence to introduce these paragraphs:

a

Two million bugs live in our beds, making a meal of everything they find on the sheets. Our wardrobes contain a breed of moth that eat through our clothes.

b

We all want pearly white, even, straight teeth, but all of us eat the wrong foods and drink liquids full of sugar. We do not want to go to the dentist, but still we often forget to brush our teeth.

c

It gives you the opportunity to learn more about the traditions and culture of the host country and its people. Apart from the excellent education I got from studying in England, I also made many friends and improved my language skills.