

# Tips to Improve Your Paragraph

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Before you write your paragraph, make sure you carefully read and understand the question in the prompt and/or the instructions for your paragraph.

Content:

1. If you use a title, make sure it is interesting, not too long, and connects to your paragraph.
2. Make sure your topic sentence answers the question in the prompt.
3. Explain each supporting idea.
4. If possible, write about an example from life for each supporting idea.  
After writing your example from life, you can explain to the reader why you chose this example, what it shows, or how it confirms your supporting idea.
5. End your paragraph with a concluding sentence that answers the question in the prompt and restates each of your supporting ideas in the same order as in your paragraph.

Correcting Mistakes and Proofreading:

1. After you finish your paragraph, go back and examine the instructions if there are any. If there are instructions, be sure that you did everything you were asked to do.
2. If you wrote a title, you can capitalize all content words.
3. Make sure your paragraph is indented and double-spaced. If it is typed, use Times New Roman font, size 12.
4. Check your grammar. Make sure your verbs correspond to the subject of the sentence. Be sure you added an “s” if you used third person singular in the present tense. In addition, assure that you wrote complete sentences. Each sentence should be a complete thought. Also, make sure that your explanations were written in the simple present tense, and your examples from life, in the simple past tense.
5. Proofread your paragraph aloud. This can help you find many of your own mistakes and/or typos. If you read your paragraph silently, you may not find as many mistakes.

If you need more help, you can make an appointment with an ESL tutor.