

# Structuring a Paragraph

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# Overview of PSW Emerging Writers Program

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Date	Topic	Presenter
<del>9/22/21</del>	<del>Overview of the Journal/Peer Review Process/ Authorship</del>	<del>Amanda Margolis</del>
<del>10/6/21</del>	<del>How to Perform Effective Literature Searches/ Introduction to citation managers</del>	<del>Sarah Peppard/CUWSOP</del>
<del>10/20/21</del>	<del>Plagiarism and Appropriate Use of Figures and Tables</del>	<del>Jen Fleishauer</del>
<del>11/2/21</del>	<del>Structuring an Introduction/Conclusion</del>	<del>Gessie Sedgwick</del>
11/17/21	Structuring a Paragraph	Michael Nagy
12/1/21	Common Grammatical Errors	Jen Pitterle
1/26/21	AMA Citations and Citation Managers	Amanda Margolis
2/9/21	Structuring a results and discussion section	Lynnae Mahaney

# Purpose of a paragraph

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- Develops **ONE** main idea through a series of related sentences
- A framework for organizing ideas in a logical order
- Guide the reader through your written work

# Sentences that Structure a Paragraph

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## **Topic Sentence (TS)** - *the beginning*

- Needs to state ONE idea clearly
- Useful Tip: Always put the most important information first!

## **Supporting Sentences (SS)** - *the middle*

- Elaborates and explains the idea introduced in the topic sentence
- Provides evidence and examples
- Explains the evidence or example included - why is it relevant?

## **Concluding Sentence (CS)** - *the end*

- Makes links: back to the main idea of the paragraph; back to research question or topic of the assignment; to the next paragraph

Source: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/writing-paragraphs/structure>

Source: <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-a-perfect-paragraph#5-tips-for-structuring-and-writing-better-paragraphs>

# Example

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As health care becomes more patient centered, an increased value is placed on humanistic outcomes, such as quality of life and patient satisfaction.<sup>1</sup> Warfarin, historically the primary anticoagulant for the treatment and prevention of thromboembolic events, has a narrow therapeutic window requiring frequent monitoring of the international normalized ratio (INR) for safety and efficacy.<sup>2</sup> Extending the interval for INR monitoring in patients on stable doses of warfarin could be a strategy to improve patient satisfaction because many health care systems monitor the INR at least every 4 weeks.<sup>3</sup> As a grade 2B recommendation (weak recommendation based on moderate evidence), the 2012 American College of Chest Physician guidelines suggest an INR follow-up interval of up to 12 weeks in patients on stable doses of warfarin.<sup>4</sup> However, the limited data available suggests no net benefit in patient satisfaction regarding the extension of the INR follow-up interval to 12 weeks.<sup>5-8</sup>

# Elements in Writing a Good Paragraph

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- Element #1: **Unity**
- Element #2: **Order**
- Element #3: **Coherence**
  - Verb tense and point of view
- Element #4: **Completeness**

# Transitions

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- Tie together ideas or paragraphs, connecting them to form a coherent idea
- Phrases that show:
  - Order (first, second, next, finally)
  - Spatial relationships (above, below, following)
  - Logic (furthermore, in addition, moreover)
- Makes for a smoother, more pleasant reading experience

Source: <https://www.time4writing.com/writing-resources/paragraph-writing-secrets/>

Source: <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-a-perfect-paragraph#5-tips-for-structuring-and-writing-better-paragraphs>

# When to start a New Paragraph

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- A paragraph break is necessary when:
  - Starting a new topic
  - Contrasting points of view or ideas
  - Providing white space to give readers a pause from a longer paragraph
- Paragraph breaks control the pace of writing/reading
- No set number of sentences required per paragraph
- Ensure your central idea is supported and ensure your audience is not overwhelmed

# Other Tips and Tricks

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- Outline your ideas first
- Don't judge your initial writing just put "pen to paper"
- If slowing down, take a break to review your work
- Review from different lenses (grammar/spelling, citations)
- Ask an independent party to review

# Acknowledgements & Questions

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- Survey link: [https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_clmD9oydChuNIKa](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_clmD9oydChuNIKa)

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