Unit 2 - paragraph writing

Definition: A paragraph is a series of sentences that are organized and coherent, and are all related to a single topic.

Parts of a Paragraph

A- Topic sentence

- ❖ contains the main idea of the paragraph and it is more general than supporting sentences
- ❖ It often comes at the beginning of a paragraph. However, it is sometimes placed in the middle or at the end of a paragraph for different reasons.

B- Supporting sentence

- ➢ To answer the question in the reader's mind and to give more explanation to the general idea (topic sentence). These sentences are more detailed and specific than topic sentence. They develop or support the topic sentence by providing facts, examples, reasons and specific details

C- Concluding sentences

- o Aimed at concluding /complete a paragraph
- o Summarizes the paragraph, restate the main idea, adds insight or evaluate the supporting details

Nature and position of topic sentence

It is generally best to start a paragraph with a topic sentence. The function of a topic sentence is to tell what the paragraph will be about. It serves as an introduction to the paragraph because it tells the reader what to expect next in the paragraph. Topic sentence may also come in the middle of the paragraph, at the end of the paragraph and in the beginning and at the end of the paragraph.

Sample paragraph

Identify the topic sentence, supporting sentences and concluding sentences in in the following text.

Planning is necessary for different reasons. First of all, it helps people to budget their time energy and money. Second, it encourages people to list down all the activities to be done. The other importance is it will give a chance for prioritizing and dividing the time for those activities. Moreover, it helps to reduce worries that may result from lack of proper

planning. In general, planning is an important aspect of one's future development.

Topic sentence_____.

Supporting sentences_____.

Concluding sentence_____.

Essentials of a paragraph (unity & coherence)

Unity- is oneness of a paragraph. A sentence focus on a single major idea or all sentences in a paragraph should talk about a single point or idea which means each sentence in a paragraph should stick to the main idea in the topic sentence.

Coherence-sentence should linked with each other smoothly and logically. Or there is a natural flow of idea in a coherent paragraph by using the transitional words or phrases (cohesive devices) and repeating key nouns and consistent pronouns.

Types of paragraphs- Based on their purposes paragraphs can be classified into four. These are:

Expository paragraph-Telling

- it is aimed at instructing or teaching readers about something, and to change or add to the knowledge or attitude of the readers;
- To explain process and give directions;
- To explain a new idea or a method of doing something. It is not the purpose of expository paragraph that to entertain the readers but its focus is on explaining the subject to help readers know something.
- It uses transitional words like first , second, next after…to tell the process.

N.B: Select your favourite topic and write an expository composition of 2-3 paragraph (5pts)

Narrative paragraph-The purpose of narrative paragraph is

- To show readers an order of events in time. The event may be real or imaginary stories. Transitional words such as after, first then finally…etc. are usually used to show sequence of events(chronological orders)

- Recreate a past experience (telling a story, a history text about historical events, a letter to your colleagues about your journey from somewhere to elsewhere) are some examples of narrative paragraph.

N.B: Select your favourite past experience and write a narrative paragraph having 3-4 paragraphs.(5pts)

Descriptive paragraph- A descriptive paragraph is aimed at:

- ✓ Showing readers what someone, something or scene looks like. The words in this paragraph should create a clear picture for the reader. Therefore, we use adjectives/adverbs here.
- ✓ Figures of speech (simile, personification, metaphor) are used

  Red-tinted lips, slimy body, pink cheeks, slender hands, broad shoulders, sweet voice, a fussy hair, an angelic love, extremely noisy, highly crowded etc. are some figures of speeches.

N.B: Choose a title of your own and prepare a descriptive paragraph which has 4-5 paragraphs (5 points)

Persuasive (Argumentative) paragraph-

- ❖ The purpose the paragraph is to convince or persuade the reader to accept the writer's opinion (To change reader's mind)
- ❖ The writer usually uses should, ought to better, worse and must to express opinions though it can be used without these modal verbs
- ❖ An advertisement is a good example of such paragraph
- ❖ Some persuasive paragraph examples include:
  - Cigarette companies should not advertise cigarettes
  - Schools should be open all years around
  - Killing animals for food is wrong

N.B: Prepare an argumentative paragraph on advantage and disadvantages of chewing chat (5pts)

Techniques of Paragraph Development-To develop a paragraph we use:

- Definition-
  Example: A robot is a machine that can perform a complicated series of tasks
- Process explanation
  Example: How to make coffee (first, second, next…)
- Explaining cause-effect relationships

Example: As the **frost** damaged the oranges last year, they became **more expensive.**

- Comparison and contrast (similarities and differences)
- Classification (based on unique features: Movies- Romance, Western and Thriller)

Developing a paragraph (guide and free writing)

Free paragraph writing- is traditionally regarded as a prewriting technique practiced in academic environments, in which a person writes continuously for a set period of time with in limited concern for rhetoric, conventions, and mechanics, sometimes writing from a specific prompt provided by a teacher./**Wikipedia**/

Your instructor might ask you to write down your topic at the top of an empty page, and write for five or ten minutes without stopping. The main benefits of free writing is that you learn how to stop editing your thoughts and words to spill out, uninhibited without stopping, without regard for spelling, grammar, or any of other language concerns / http:// study com>academic>lesson, Oct 12,2021/

“ ***The sun is bright today I need to clean the window. How do people’s hands get so dirty? There’s a lot I clean in this house. Clean clean clean clean how much can I get done before we leave town? I hope that h weather is nice out there. There is no chance they will get me in the the ater. I can’t believe it’s already October there are Christmas things in the stores already. That stuff was there in September. Too early. The holidays will be good. So much better than last year.”***

Guided paragraph writing- Its first step in guided paragraph writing session is to brain storm your paragraph ideas with in your class . In language teaching when students do guided writing activities they are given an outline in words or pictures to develop them write.

Assignment (out of 15 %)

Use the following vocabulary words and put each of them on the appropriate space provided below (guided writing)

Oceans, atmosphere, evaporates, vapour, lakes, condense, clouds, ice, precipitation, snow, ground, springs, rivers, ground water, rain, runoff

The heat from the sun _____(1) water from the _____(2) and _____, (3)the soil, trees and plants. The water rises up into the air in the form of water_____(4). The tiny droplets _____(5) together and form_____(6)

which rise higher into the _____(7). The wind blows them over the mountains, where they condense into _____(8) which freezes and falls as _____(9)and _____(10). This is called _____(11). The water soaks into the _____(12). Where it is trapped between layers of rock or clay. This is called **ground water**. But most water flows downhill as surface _____(13)) (above or underground) which eventually collects into_____(14) and _____(15)eventually returning to the seas.