

## Detailed Guide to Writing a Paragraph (with a sample paragraph)

### Paragraph Sample

**Step 1: Choose a topic & write your topic** at the top of your paper.

**Step 2: Brainstorm ideas; then review your list and do some planning & organizing.**

Choose 3-4 details to include.

Choose the order you will present them.

**Step 3: Begin writing your first draft.**

- Expand your topic into a TOPIC SENTENCE.
- Expand your details into sentences. Write all the detail sentences first; leave room to add an example. (*Once you are satisfied with your 2-3 detail sentences, go back and add the example sentences.*)

**Step 1:**

Topic: FAVORITE HOBBY

### Photography

**Step 2: Ideas:** (*Brainstorm for 2-3 minutes, making a list of anything that comes into your mind about your topic. DO keep writing without stopping to judge the quality of each idea. Sorting through the list comes later.*)

#### First list:

Digital	Landscapes
Film	No negatives
Batteries	Storage
People	Camera
Scenes	Unusual subjects
Sunsets	Camera settings
Fountains	Sharing memories

#### Sort/Organize:

- Digital ✓ ➡ EQUIPMENT (1)
- Camera ✓
- Computer ✓
- Landscapes ✓ ➡ SUBJECTS (2)
- Family ✓
- Unusual subjects
- Sharing memories ✓ ➡ MEMORIES (3)
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**Step 3:**

#### DRAFT 1

**Topic sentence:** *One of my favorite hobbies is photography.*

**Detail 1:** *Digital equipment makes it easy to always have my camera handy.* (Example)

Because my camera is small and doesn't need film, I can easily carry it with me.

**Detail 2:** *I take pictures of scenery, unusual objects, friends, and family.* (Example) Traveling and the destinations, colorful leaf piles or flowers, and special occasions are some of the subject I like

### Step 3: continued

- Write a CONCLUSION SENTENCE. (*Your conclusion should summarize and pull all the ideas together. It reflects the topic sentence, but doesn't restate the topic sentence in the same words.*)

### Step 4: Revise

- Add **transitions**.
- Change **words and sentences** to make your meaning clearer.

### Step 5: Edit

**Changes are highlighted in gray.**

*[Remember to make several "passes" and look for a different error each time you read through your paragraph.]*

- complete sentences
- subject/verb agreement
- consistent verb tense
- consistent pronoun use
- parallel structure
- punctuation
- spelling
- capital letters

best.

**Detail 3: *My pictures let me share and preserve memories.*** (Example) Beautiful landscapes and parties with family and friends can be revisited anytime I open my photo albums or computer picture files.

**Conclusion sentence: *Photography is not only an outlet for my creative side but it also lets me treasure my travel and family experiences.***

### Step 4: Revise

*One of my favorite hobbies is photography.*

(1) **First**, digital equipment makes it easy to always have my camera handy. Because my camera is small and doesn't need film, I can easily carry it with me, **so it's always ready.** (2) **Whenever I have the chance**, I take pictures of scenery, unusual objects, friends, and family. (Example) ~~Traveling and the destinations~~ **Scenery from travels**, colorful leaf piles or flowers, and special occasions are some of the subjects **I like best.** (3) **Finally, my pictures let me share and preserve memories.** Beautiful landscapes and parties with family and friends can be revisited anytime I open my photo albums or **my computer's** picture files.

*Photography is not only an outlet for my creative side, **but it also lets allows me to treasure my travel and family experiences.***

EVALUATE:

Topic Sentence: YES *One of my favorite hobbies is photography.*

Details: YES 3 of them

Details effective: YES , each detail relates to photography and why it is important to me

Conclusion Sentence: YES *Photography is not only an outlet for my creative side, **but it also lets allows me to treasure my travel and family experiences.***

Write a more finished draft:

**DRAFT 2:**

One of my favorite hobbies is photography. First, digital equipment makes it easy to always have my camera handy. Because my camera is small and doesn't need film, I can easily carry it with me, so it's always ready. Whenever I have the chance, I take pictures of scenery, unusual objects, friends, and family. Scenery from travels, colorful leaf piles or flowers, and special occasions are some of the subjects I like best. Finally, my pictures let me share and preserve memories. Beautiful landscapes and parties with family and friends can be revisited anytime I open my photo albums or my computer's picture files. Photography is not only an outlet for my creative side, but it also allows me to treasure my travel and family experiences.

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Now, it's your turn.

Use the paragraph sample frame to create your first paragraph.