

Writing a Paragraph

A paragraph states and explains one idea. The paragraph may be answering a question or explaining an issue. You must support your idea with evidence. This should include specific examples that are linked to the topic sentence. Who and What are good questions to answer. What is a jury? Who can serve on a jury? The topic will determine the order. Your paragraph will explain one idea and support the idea with evidence or examples.

For instance, to explain how citizens participate in a trial as witnesses or jurors, a paragraph will need the following:

Explanation	composition of a jury, role of a juror, types of witness
Who serves on a jury	Only Australian citizens can serve; citizens must serve; in WA, a citizen can defer jury service on one occasion only
Role of witness	Taking the oath; examination and cross examination

TOPIC SENTENCE

This sentence sets out the main idea of the paragraph. Every sentence after this expands or supports the main idea. In this example you are writing about primary and secondary sources.

EXPANDING SENTENCE

Expands on the idea in the Topic Sentence. In this example, we explain the composition of a jury.

Juries play a key role in the Australian system of criminal justice. A jury is composed of twelve citizens, all of whom must be Australian citizens. In Western Australia, a citizen must serve on a jury when called. They may defer once and only for six months. Juries determine matters of fact while the judge determines matters of law. For instance, the jury determines guilt or innocence while the judge determines the sentence. Without a jury system, the guilt or innocence of a person would be determined by only one person. Juries play an essential role in ensuring justice in Australia.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

Supports the idea of the paragraph explaining who can serve on a jury and what the function of a jury is. In high school, you should give at least two example sentences.

LINKING SENTENCES

Finish the paragraph by linking back to the idea of the paragraph but do not simply repeat the Topic sentence.