

PARAGRAPH TOPIC **LIST**

My Favorite Sport

**The Problems of Old
Age**

The Life of a Teenager

The Perfect Job

**The “MUSTS” for a
Healthy Body**

**The Best Season of the
Year**

PRETEST SAMPLE

Assignment: Describe what your life will be like in two years.

In two years, I will be cramming for final exams while I finish my freshman year in college. In order that I do well on the exams, I will review my past exams. I will pick my most important goal, and I will decide on a major. I will relax and look forward to next year.

PRACTICE SAMPLE

Assignment: Describe Someone

My Special Friend

Eric is very special to me. One reason Eric is special is that he is my best friend; he is always there for me. When I am upset, he listens and helps me solve my problems. In fact, he is my sunshine on a rainy day; he always lifts my spirit when it is down. Another reason he is very special is that he always shows me respect. He never forgets my feelings, and he often puts my feelings first. A third reason Eric is special is that he is a very kind person, and he spreads his kindness generously. He is always doing favors for people without being asked. To summarize, Eric is special because he is always there for me, respects my feelings, and is very kind.

PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH

Title

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

SENTENCE TYPES USED IN PARAGRAPHS

PARAGRAPH PART

SENTENCE TYPE

Introduction

Topic Sentence

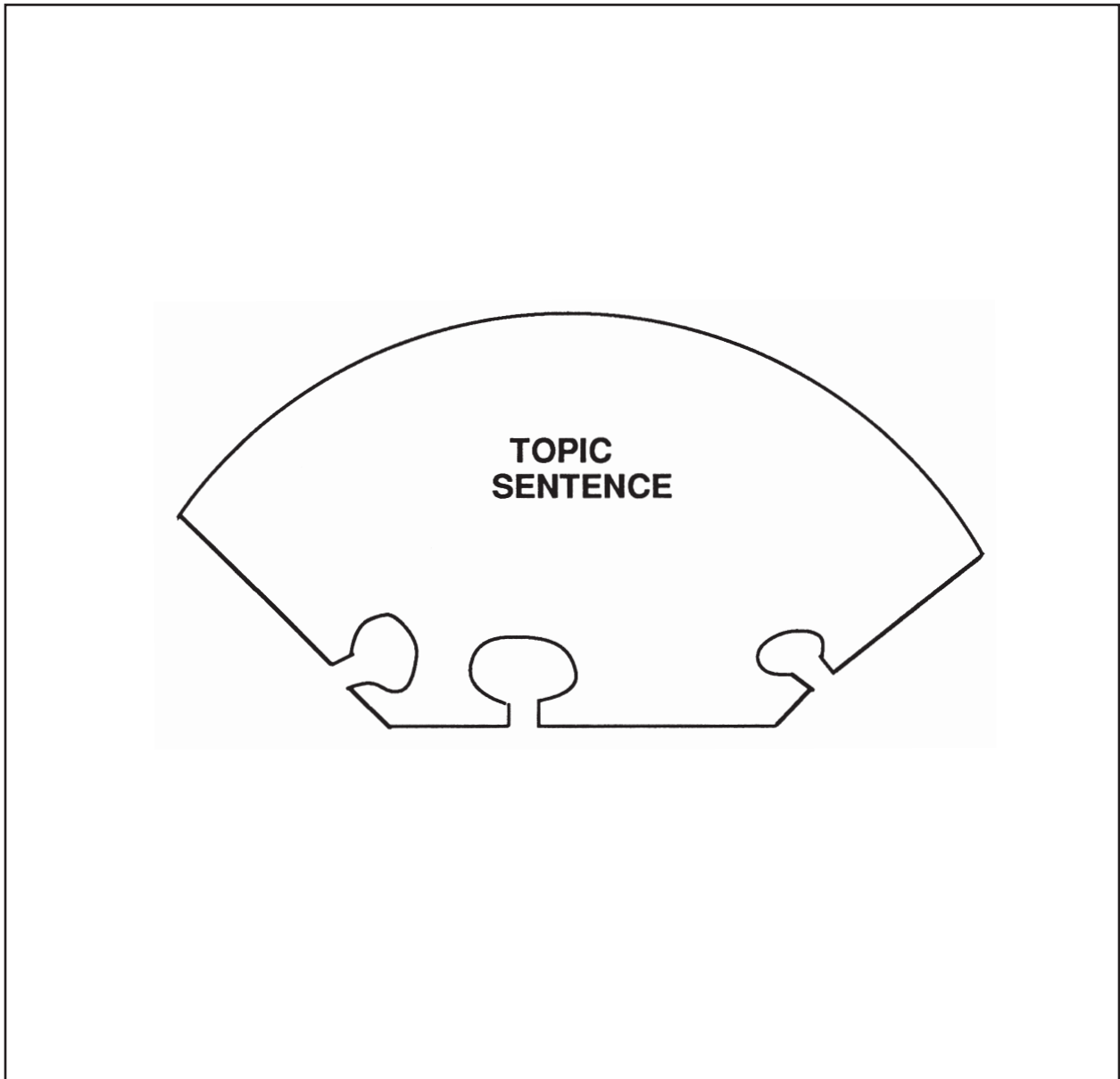
Body

Detail Sentences

Conclusion

Clincher Sentence

THE PARAGRAPH WRITING STRATEGY PUZZLE: PART I



TOPIC SENTENCE

- **Is usually the first sentence.**
- **Introduces the main idea.**
- **Sometimes introduces the details.**

TYPES OF TOPIC SENTENCES

General Topic Sentences

Clueing Topic Sentences

Specific Topic Sentences

GENERAL TOPIC SENTENCE

**Names the main idea
of the paragraph.**

GENERAL TOPIC SENTENCE



EXAMPLES OF GENERAL TOPIC SENTENCES

The hot trend in advertising these days is to hire real, live stars.

Kevin James would have been 20 years old this September.

Not much is left of a town known as Nora, Nebraska.

Democracy is thriving at Hillsboro High School.

CLUEING TOPIC SENTENCE

- **Names the main idea**
- **Gives a clue about the details.**

CLUE WORDS

Many	Various	Differences
Several	Classes	Similarities
A number of	Categories	Advantages
Number (“Three”)	Groups	Disadvantages
Kinds	Steps	Jobs
Types	Stages	Uses
Parts	Ways	Causes
Elements	Roles	Effects
Pieces	Features	Reasons
Members	Examples	Sources
Divisions	Characteristics	Products
Components	Functions	Variety
Different	Assortment	

EXAMPLES OF CLUEING **TOPIC SENTENCES**

The four seasons spice up our lives.

Tents come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

The citizens of Lawrence have several reasons for building a new high school.

Jesse Flynn is my best friend because of his many fine characteristics.

CLUEING TOPIC SENTENCE



SPECIFIC TOPIC SENTENCE

- **Names the main Idea.**
- **Names the specific details to be covered in order.**

SPECIFIC TOPIC SENTENCE



EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC TOPIC SENTENCES

Air pollution is caused by vehicles and industries.

Charles Darwin lived an interesting life as an explorer, writer, and scientist.

Diseases caused by vitamin deficiencies are beri beri, pellagra, scurvy, and rickets.

STEPS FOR WRITING A TOPIC SENTENCE

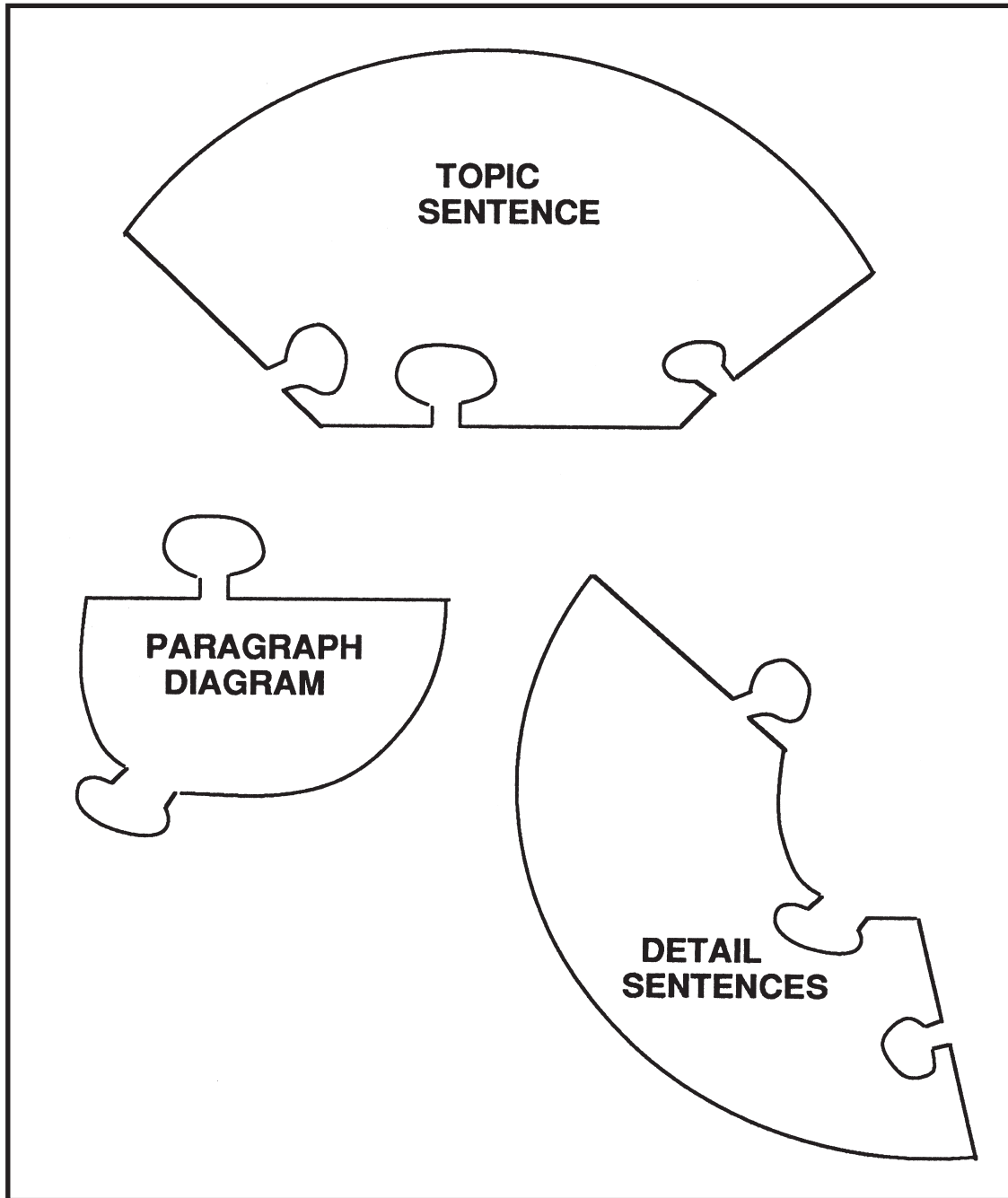
Step 1: **P**ick a sentence type
and a formula.

Step 2: **E**xplore words to fit
the sentence type and
formula.

Step 3: **N**ote the words.

Step 4: **S**earch and check.

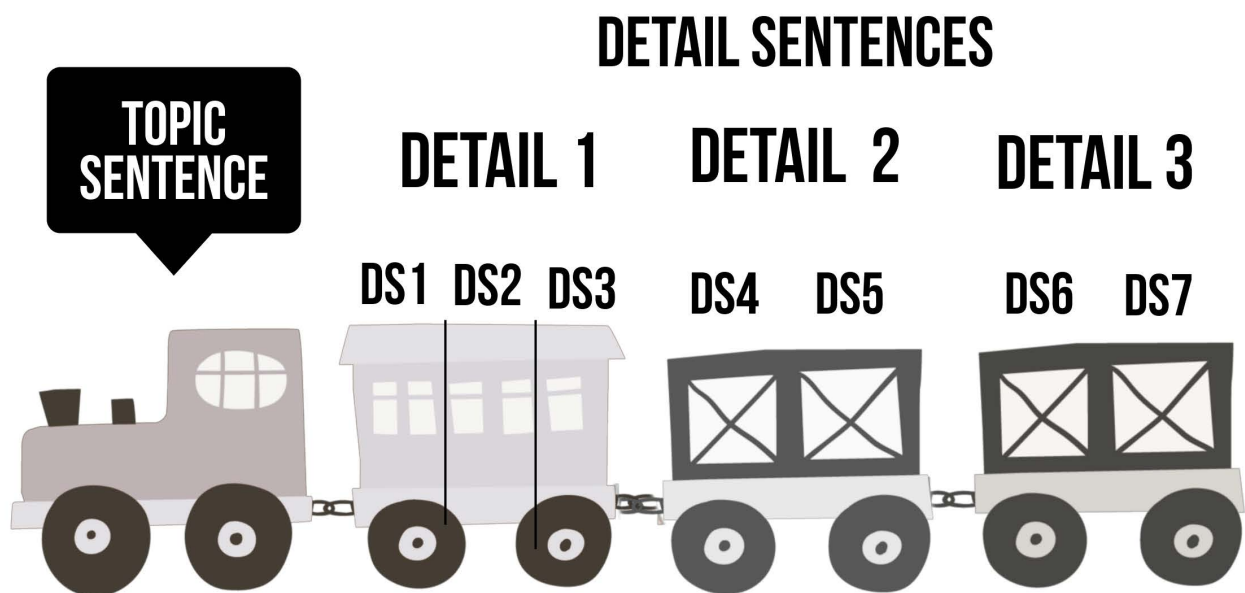
THE PARAGRAPH WRITING STRATEGY PUZZLE: PART II



DETAIL SENTENCE

- **Discusses one of the details in the paragraph.**
- **Sometimes shows the relationship between a detail and the rest of the paragraph.**

THE PARAGRAPH EXPRESS



TRANSITION

- **Signals the introduction of a new detail.**
- **Shows the relationship between the detail and the rest of the paragraph.**

TYPES OF DETAIL SENTENCES

Lead-off Sentences

Follow-up Sentences

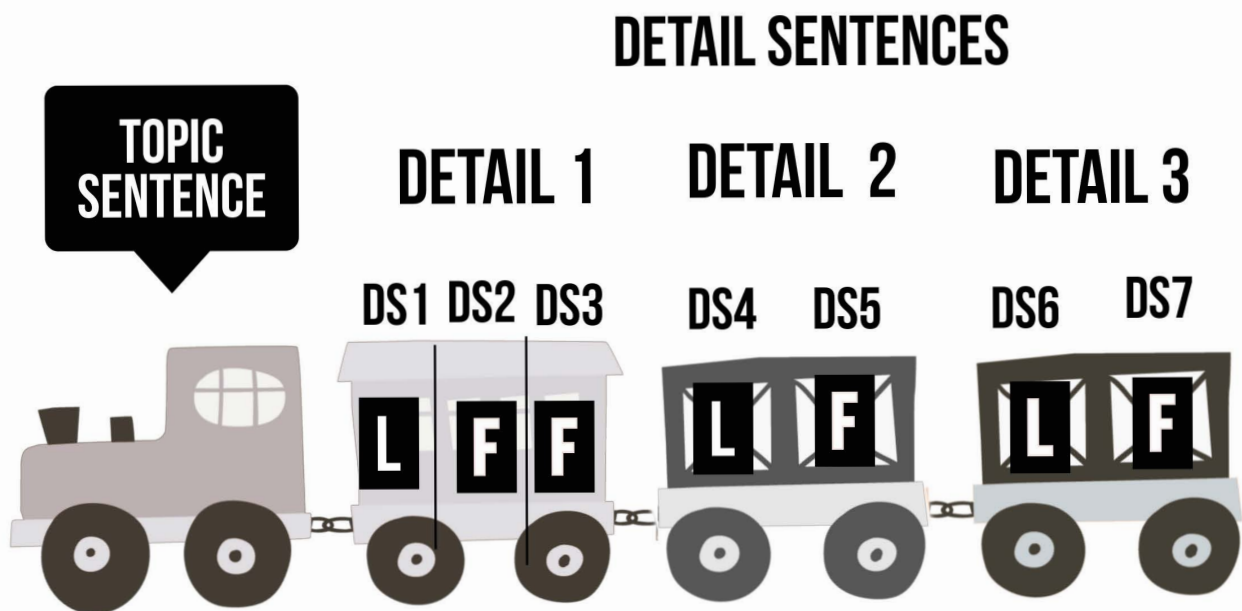
LEAD-OFF SENTENCE

- **Introduces a new detail.**
- **Contains a transition.**

FOLLOW-UP SENTENCE

**Provides more
information about the
detail.**

THE PARAGRAPH EXPRESS



EXAMPLE DETAIL SENTENCES

Topic sentence:

Turtles could not survive without their marvelous shells.

Detail sentences:

Most importantly, turtles' shells serve as the base for their skeletons. Their backbones and ribs are attached to the flat bony plates of their shells. This skeleton provides shape for their bodies. Somewhat importantly, turtles' shells serve as their portable homes. Turtles can live anywhere because they carry their homes with them. This is important for turtles since they move so slowly. Finally, turtles' shells are important because the shells protect turtles from their enemies. Turtles who are in danger can pull their heads and legs into their hard shells to protect themselves from animals who might try to eat them.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A DETAIL SENTENCE

Each detail sentence must:

- **Contain related information.**
- **Be in a logical sequence with other sentences.**
- **Include a transition if it introduces a new detail.**
- **Be written from the same point of view as other sentences.**
- **Be written in the same tense as the other sentences.**

DETAIL SENTENCE **SEQUENCES**

Size Sequence -

when details are larger/smaller than each other.

Time Sequence -

when some details occur before others in time.

Space Sequence -

when details are arranged in space in relation to each other.

Importance Sequence -

when some details are more important than others.

Chain-Link Sequence -

when details are related in pairs or not related in any of the above sequences.

TRANSITIONS CHART

SIZE TRANSITIONS

The largest	Larger than	The smallest	The small-sized	The tallest
The next largest	Equal to	The next smallest	The medium-sized	The shortest
The smallest	Smaller than	The largest	The large-sized	

TIME TRANSITIONS

First,	Now	At the beginning of	Thereafter,	By this time,	Before
Then,	Soon	In the middle of	Presently,	At the same time,	In the meantime
Next,	Then	At the end of	After a short time,	At that instant,	Meanwhile
At last,	Later		Soon thereafter,	Immediately,	During
				Simultaneously,	After
					Afterwards
First,		In the morning,	Yesterday,		The first
Second,		Before noon,	Today,		A more recent
Third,		In the afternoon,	Tomorrow,		The most recent
Finally,		In the evening,	The day after tomorrow.		
In the past,		The next day,	This year,		The earliest
In the present,		Two weeks later,	Next year,		The next earliest
In the future,		Six months later,	In the next few years,		The most recent

SPACE TRANSITIONS

behind	on the edge of	beside	in front of	west of	high
over	toward	around	facing	east of	against
under	throughout	near	in back of	north of	alongside
below	to the right of side	by side	in the center	south of	ahead of
beneath	to the left of	close to	inside	at the	here
low down	on top of	next to	outside	in	there
on the bottom	at the top	down	at the end of	on	beyond
on the corner	by	up	between	above	farther on

IMPORTANCE TRANSITIONS

The best	The most important			The best
The next best	Equally important		The first	The next best
The least best	The next important		More important than	The worst
	The least important		Most important	

CHAIN-LINK TRANSITIONS

On the one hand,	One example of	In the first place,	In other words,	The first
On the other hand,	For instance,	In the second place,	In fact,	The second
	Another example	in the third place,	Also,	The third
Again,	A further example			
Besides,	For example,			
Moreover,	For another example,	One	Because	First,
		Another	Since	Second,
	Still another	A further	As	Third,
	In addition,	Further,	Still,	Specifically,
	In the same way,	Furthermore,	While	More specifically,
	In fact,		Instead	In particular,
The opposite of __ is __	Additionally,			
On the contrary side	Lastly,	The last	Indeed,	As a result,
To the contrary,	Similar to __ is __	Last	Although	Consequently,
In contrast,	Another similar __ is __		Even though	Naturally,
In spite of	Likewise,	Nevertheless,	Even if	After all,
Despite the	Similarly,	Nonetheless,		
	A dissimilar __ is __			

CONCLUDING TRANSITIONS

To conclude,	In sum,	To sum up,	As you can see,
In conclusion,	In brief,	To summarize,	As a result,
In summary,	In short,	Thus,	Finally,
		Therefore,	

POINTS OF VIEW

FIRST PERSON

The Writer



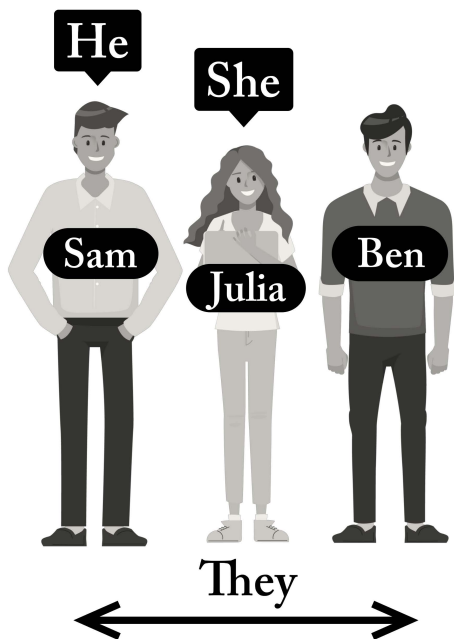
SECOND PERSON

The Reader(s)



THIRD PERSON

The Other(s)



ABSTRACT CONCEPTS



OBJECTS, PLACES



EXAMPLE SENTENCES WRITTEN IN
FIRST PERSON POINT OF VIEW

I went to the beach for a vacation with several friends.

We sunbathed, fished, watched the surfers, and swam.

I have solved a number of mysteries lately.

We recently moved to the country from the city; we love our new home.

**EXAMPLE SENTENCES WRITTEN IN
SECOND PERSON POINT OF VIEW**

You should be sure to pack light when you go backpacking.

You will have a good trip if you are aware of some safety tips.

Never take heavy objects like extra shoes or cast iron fry pans on a backpacking trip.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES WRITTEN IN
THIRD PERSON POINT OF VIEW

The boys went to a movie and then to a dance; they enjoyed themselves.

Scott, Chris, and Wallis became the best of friends.

The garden was filled with many fragrant and colorful flowers.

Each Detail Sentence must be related to the Topic Sentence.

POINT OF VIEW CHART

	<u>FIRST PERSON</u>	<u>SECOND PERSON</u>	<u>THIRD PERSON</u>
Subjects	<p>I We</p>	<p>You YOU (understood)</p>	<p>He She It They</p> <p>The house One idea The boys Marie, Jamie, Chris</p>
Sometimes in rest of sentence	<p>Me My Mine Myself</p> <p>Us Our Ours Ourselves</p>	<p>Your Yours Yourself Yourselves</p>	<p>Him Her Them Himself Herself</p> <p>Themselves Itself His Hers Their Theirs</p>

WHAT POINT OF VIEW?

My house is brown and white, and it has a big porch on the front.

Your photograph of the mountains is beautiful.

You can come over to my house tomorrow night.

Yesterday, I visited my best friend and his brother.

My sister's family includes her husband, her daughter, and her two sons.

TENSES



Present



Future



Past

TENSE CHART

Tense

Verb

Past

**painted
was painting
had painted**

Present

**is painting
paints**

Future

**will paint
shall paint**

EXAMPLE SENTENCES FOR TENSE

PAST

Yesterday, the sun rose at 5:30 A.M.

On her vacation, Kathy swam in the ocean every day, and she ran along the beach each evening.

PRESENT

**The sun is rising early this morning.
Kathy loves to swim in the ocean.**

FUTURE

Tomorrow, we will watch the sun rise.

Next summer, Kathy will swim in the ocean again, and she will stay fit.

A FINISHED PARAGRAPH DIAGRAM

1. TOPIC: My room

3.	6.	7.
SEQUENCE	P.O.V.	TENSE
Space L → R	3	Present

- 2. DETAILS:**
- 4. ORDER:**
- ② Bunk bed
 - ① Posters
 - ④ Dresser
 - ⑤ Bookshelf
 - ③ Pennants

- 5. TRANSITIONS:**
- On the left wall
 - Against the left wall
 - In the middle
 - On the right side
 - To the far right

STEPS FOR WRITING A DETAIL SENTENCE

Step 1: Pick a sentence type and a formula.

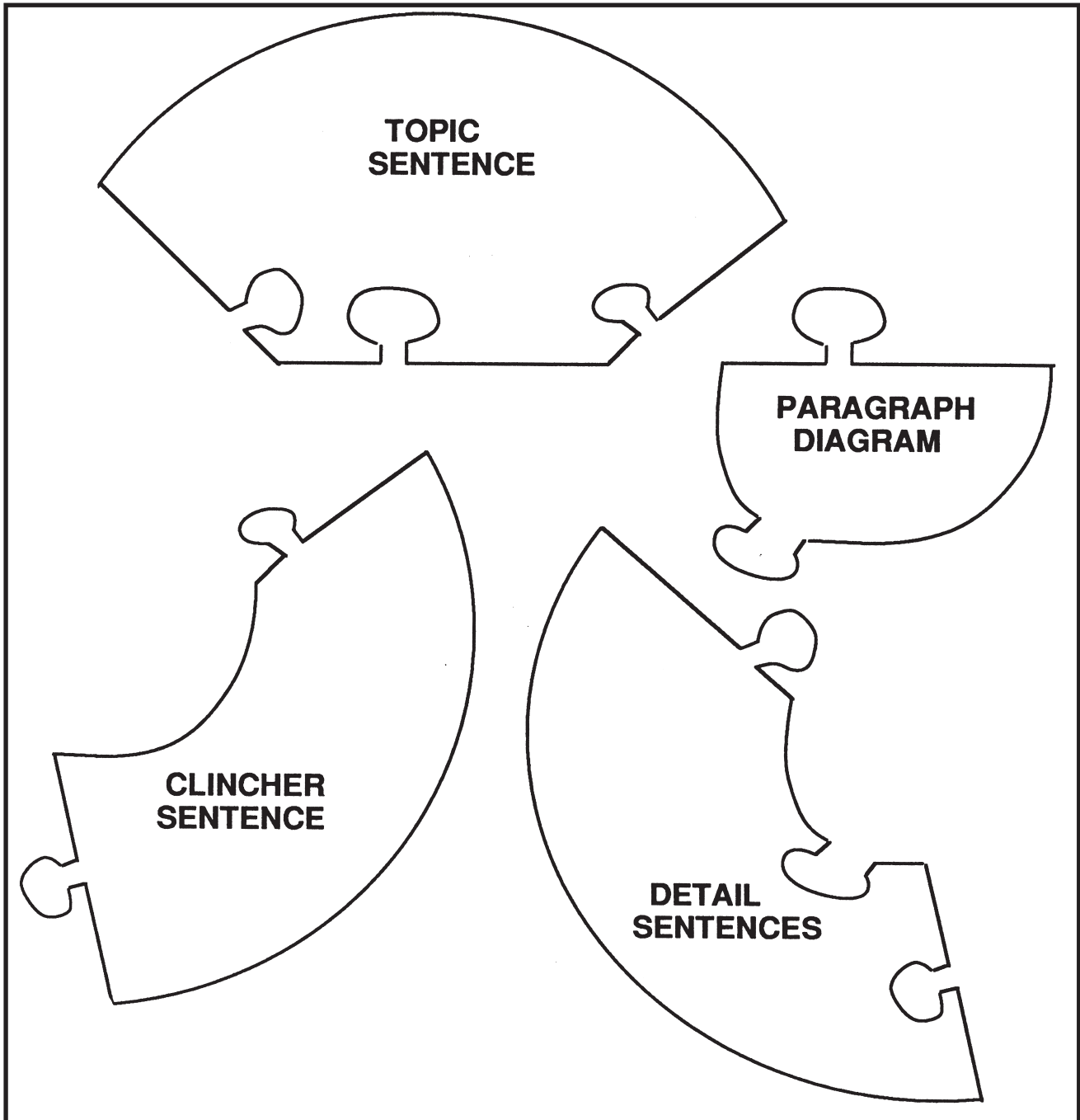
Step 2: Explore words to include the detail and

- a transition word if it introduces a new detail
- the point of view
- the tense

Step 3: Note the words.

Step 4: Search and check.

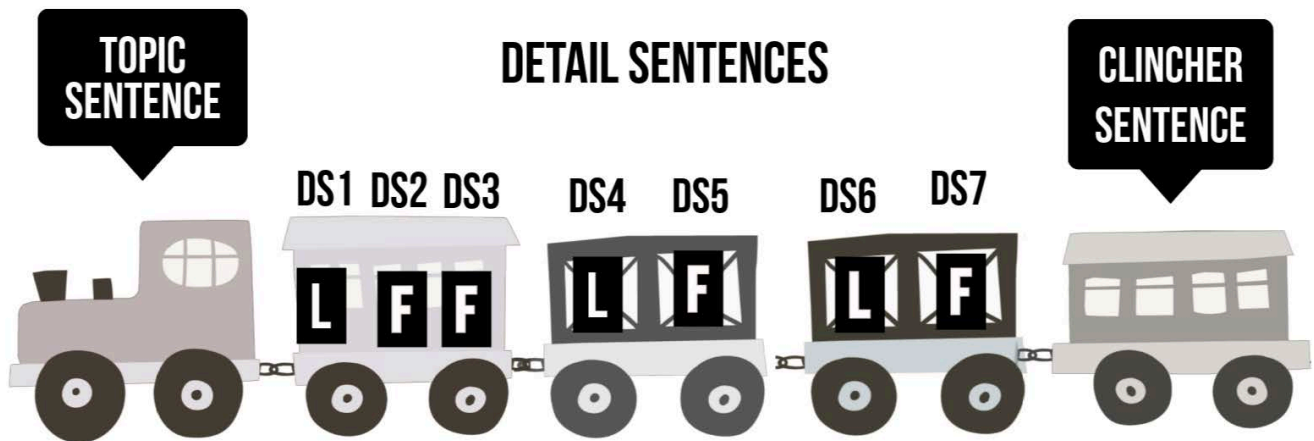
THE PARAGRAPH WRITING STRATEGY PUZZLE: PART III



CLINCHER SENTENCE

- **Is the last sentence in the paragraph.**
- **Closes the paragraph.**
- **Names the main idea of the paragraph.**
- **Sometimes summarizes or names the details of the paragraph.**
- **Is different from the Topic Sentence.**

THE PARAGRAPH EXPRESS



EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH

Nonviolent protest has been a major force in the world. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Mahatma Ghandi and his followers used nonviolent protest to gain independence for India from Britain. For the first time in decades, Indians had their own country. In the 1960s, Martin Luther King and his followers used nonviolent protest to gain rights for Blacks in America. Through nonviolent protest, they obtained rights that had been denied to them since the slaves had been freed, such as the right to sit anywhere on a bus, eat in any restaurant, and vote in elections. Thus, nonviolent protest has been successfully used by oppressed people to gain independence from other nations; it has also been used to gain personal rights and freedoms.

CONCLUDING TRANSITIONS

**Words that tell
the reader that
the paragraph is
finished.**

TYPES OF CLINCHER **SENTENCES**

General Clincher Sentence

Clueing Clincher Sentence

Specific Clincher Sentence

GENERAL CLINCHER SENTENCE

- **Summarizes the main idea of the paragraph.**
- **Makes the reader think more about the topic.**

EXAMPLE GENERAL CLINCHER SENTENCES

In summary, these car models are my favorites.

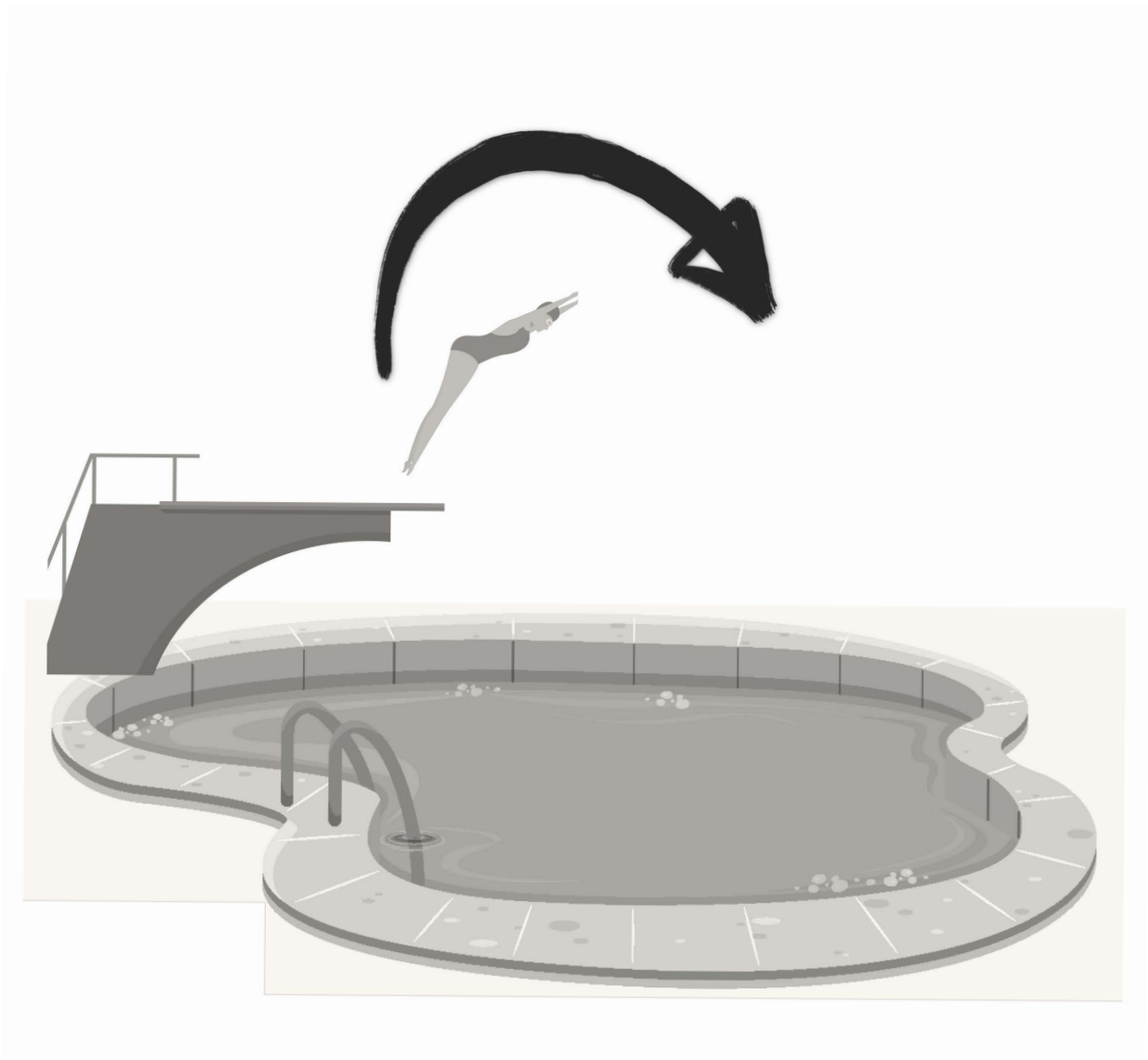
To summarize, these are my favorite car models; what are yours?

In conclusion, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Thus, if a person has approval from others, he may be less happy than if he has his own approval.

To conclude, this woman should be imitated daily.

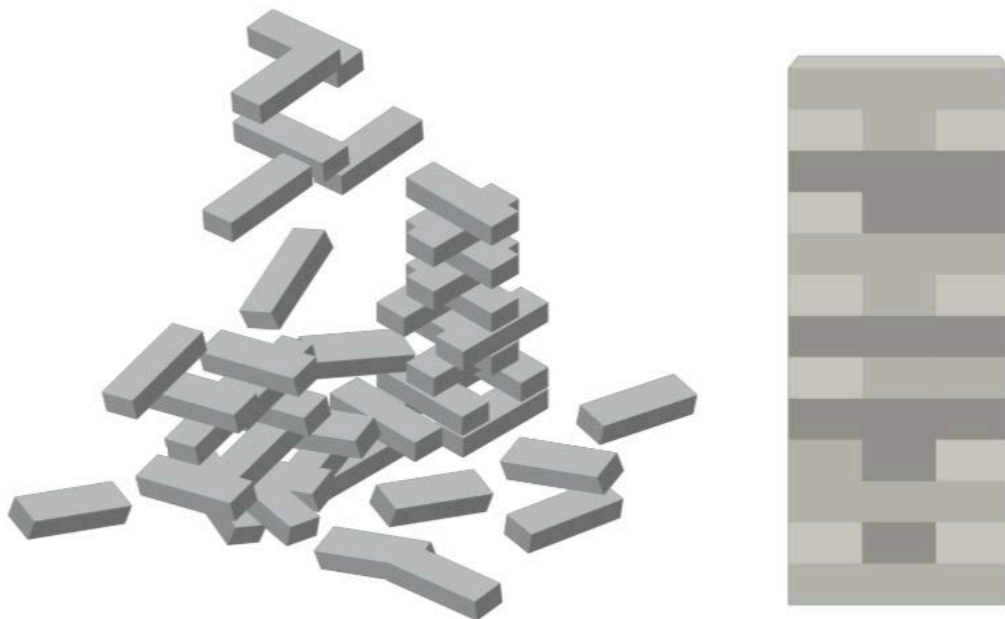
GENERAL CLINCHER SENTENCE



CLUEING CLINCHER SENTENCE

- **Names the main idea.**
- **Ties the details together with a clue word.**

CLUEING CLINCHER SENTENCE



EXAMPLE CLUEING **CLINCHER SENTENCES**

In sum, these four events served as the spark that ignited the war.

To conclude, life can deal you many cards; it's how you play them that counts.

In other words, several issues need to be considered before a person accepts a job offer.

In conclusion, plenty of serious reasons exist for staying away from drugs; ignoring them can endanger one's health and life.

SPECIFIC CLINCHER **SENTENCE**

- **Names the main idea.**

- **Names the specific details that were covered in the paragraph in order.**

SPECIFIC CLINCHER SENTENCE



EXAMPLE SPECIFIC **CLINCHER SENTENCES**

To conclude, making a snowman involves rolling the parts of his body, stacking the parts, and creating his face and clothes.

In effect, the people followed a clear course: they wrote a petition, held rallies, demanded a vote, and caused the law to be changed.

In summary, the environment is in danger because of our vehicles, our mountains of waste, and our lack of attention to nature's need to replenish itself.

STEPS FOR WRITING A CLINCHER SENTENCE

Step 1: **Pick a sentence type and formula.**

Step 2: **Explore words to fit.**

Step 3: **Note the words.**

Step 4: **Search and check.**

CLINCHER SENTENCES

MODEL PARAGRAPH 1

An American football team can score points in several ways. Anytime during a game, a football team can make six points by scoring a touchdown. A touchdown occurs when a player carries the football across the goal line or when the ball is successfully caught in the end zone. After a touchdown, a team can score additional points. One point can be made by kicking the ball through the goal posts; two points can be made by running the ball across the goal line or by successfully passing the ball into the end zone. Another way a team can score any time is by kicking a three-point field goal. A field goal is scored when a player kicks the football through the goal posts. Something that happens less often is that a team can score two points for a safety. This involves tackling the player who has the ball when he is inside his own team's end zone.

CLINCHER SENTENCES

MODEL PARAGRAPH 2

People are endangering the future lives of wild animals on our planet by taking land away from the animals, by taking the animals away from the land, by polluting the land and water, and by killing too many animals. First, people take land away from the animals to make room for houses and other buildings. They also use the land for farms and ranches. Second, people trap many animals each year for pets, and they put the animals in zoos or circuses. Third, people put tons of waste and garbage into the land, air, and water. This pollution is killing the animals that live on the land, breathe the air, and drink the water. Finally, people are killing too many wild animals for food, for sport, for their furs, and for other parts of their bodies.

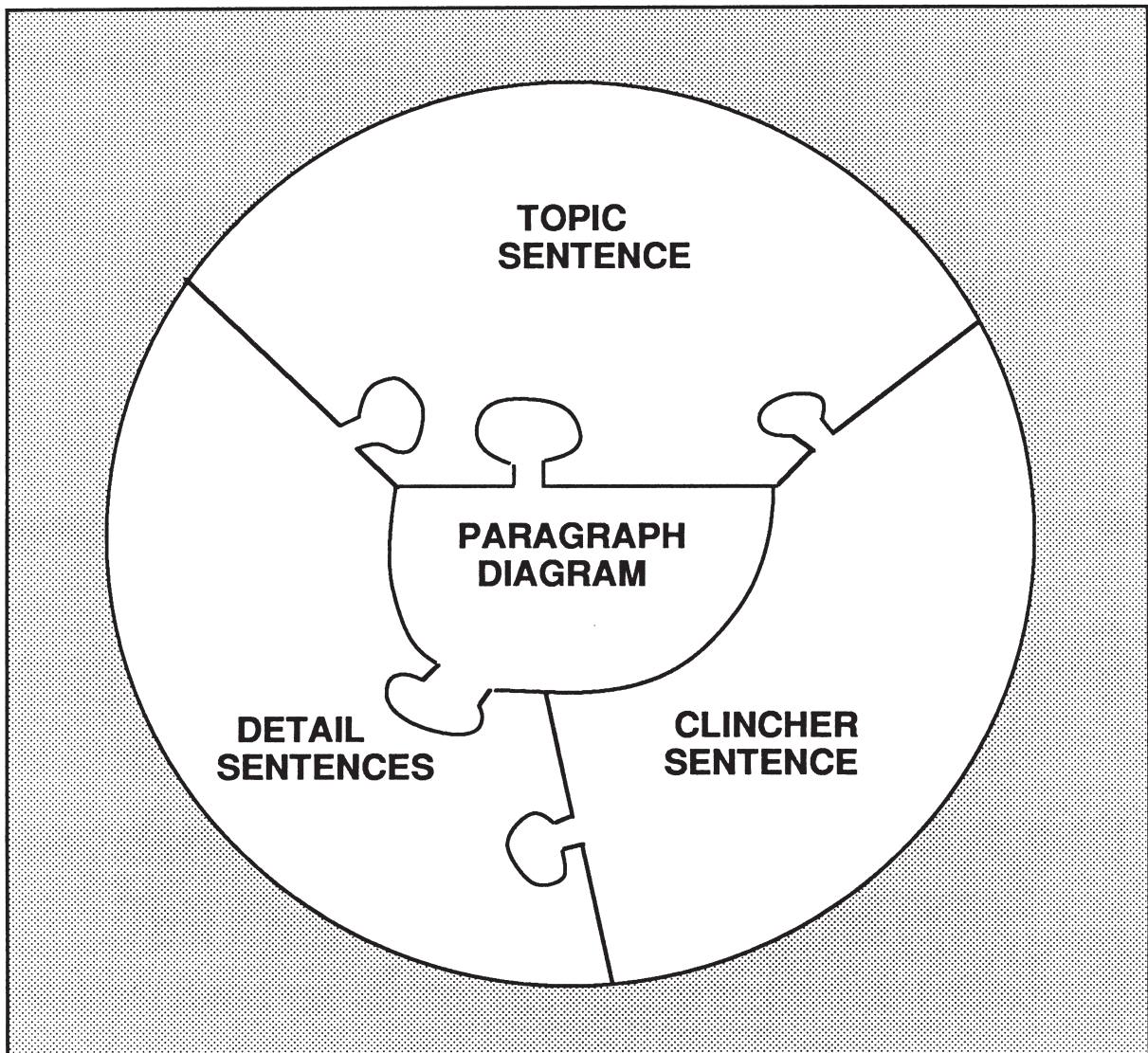
CLINCHER SENTENCES

MODEL PARAGRAPH 3

How the dinosaurs died out is one of the greatest mysteries of all time. Some scientists think that a giant meteor from outer space hit the earth about 65 million years ago. Its impact could have caused many changes on the earth that might have killed the dinosaurs. For example, the meteor's impact might have raised tons of dirt and dust into the atmosphere so that sunlight could not reach the earth, or it might have started the eruptions of many volcanoes or created tidal waves. Other scientists theorize that when flowering plants appeared in the world, the plant-eating dinosaurs could not digest these plants and died. In turn, the meat-eating dinosaurs also starved because there were no plant-eating dinosaurs left to eat. Still other scientists propose that a strange disease wiped out the dinosaurs. Finally, other scientists think that the climate of the world became too cold for the dinosaurs' survival.

THE PARAGRAPH WRITING STRATEGY PUZZLE: PART IV

THE PARAGRAPH WRITING STRATEGY



STEPS FOR WRITING A PARAGRAPH

Step 1: Set up a diagram.

Step 2: Create the title.

Step 3: Reveal the topic.

Step 4: Iron out the details.

Step 5: Bind it together with a
clinch.

Step 6: Edit your work.

TYPES OF PARAGRAPHS

- **Sequential Paragraph**
 - Narrative Paragraph
 - Step-by-Step Paragraph
- **Descriptive Paragraph**
- **Expository Paragraph**
 - Facts Paragraph
 - Reasons Paragraph
 - Examples Paragraph
- **Compare and Contrast Paragraph**
 - Compare Paragraph
 - Contrast Paragraph
 - Compare and Contrast Paragraph

SEQUENTIAL PARAGRAPH

DEFINITION:

Describes details in a special order.

TYPES:

Narrative paragraph:

Tells a story about a sequence of events.

Step-by-step paragraph:

Tells how to do something in a step-by-step manner.

NARRATIVE PARAGRAPH: **TELLS A STORY**

1. **Topic Sentence:**
 - Introduces the story to be told.

2. **Detail Sentences:**
 - Tells the reader about the events in the order that they happen, happened, or will happen.

3. **Clincher Sentence:**
 - Tells the reader the story is finished
 - Points out the significance of the story.

4. **Transitions:**
 - Time transitions.

5. **Point of view:**
 - First person.
 - Third person.

6. **Tense:**
 - Usually past tense.
 - Sometimes present tense.
 - Sometimes future tense.

STEP-BY-STEP PARAGRAPH: TELLS HOW TO DO SOMETHING

- 1. Topic Sentence:**
 - Tells the reader that a sequence of steps for a specific task or process will be described.

- 2. Detail Sentences:**
 - Each tells the reader specific information about a step.
 - The steps must be described in the correct order to get the job done right.

- 3. Clincher Sentence:**
 - Tells the reader the job is done.

- 4. Transitions:**
 - Time transitions.

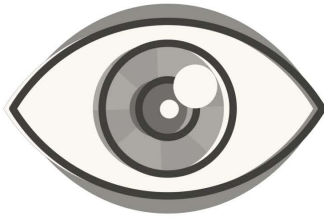
- 5. Point of view:**
 - Usually second person.
 - Sometimes third person.

- 6. Tense:**
 - Usually present tense.
 - Sometimes past or future tense.

DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

Tells about people, places, events, and things
through what the writer:

Sees



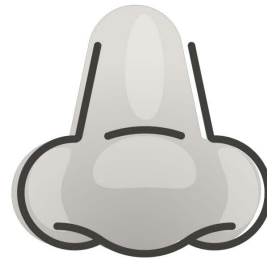
Hears



Tastes



Feels



Smells

DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH: PROVIDES A “PICTURE” OF A PERSON, PLACE, OR THING

1. Topic Sentence:

- Tells the reader that a specific person, place, or thing will be described.
- Sometimes limits the topic by telling time, and/or place, and/or senses used.

2. Detail Sentences:

- Each provides a detail for the “picture.”
- Each mentions a detail derived by at least one of the senses (sight, hearing, smelling, tasting, feeling).
- Include modifier (adjectives, adverbs).

3. Clincher Sentence:

- Sums up the overall impression of the subject.

4. Transitions:

- Usually Space Transitions.
- Sometimes Chain-Link or Importance Transitions.

5. Points of view:

- Usually third person.
- Sometimes first person.

6. Tense:

- Present.
- Past.
- Future.

EXPOSITORY PARAGRAPH

Definition:

Explains something.

Types:

Facts Paragraph

Explains something through facts.

Reasons Paragraph

Explains something through reasons.

Examples Paragraph

Explains something through examples.

FACTS PARAGRAPH: EXPLAINS SOMETHING THROUGH FACTS

- 1. Topic Sentence:**
 - Introduces the main idea.

- 2. Detail Sentences:**
 - Each provides information about a related fact.

- 3. Clincher Sentence:**
 - Sums up the facts.

- 4. Transitions:**
 - Importance, Time, or Chain-Link.

- 5. Point of view:**
 - Usually third person.
 - Sometimes first or second person.

- 6. Tense:**
 - Usually past or present tense.
 - Sometimes future tense.

REASONS PARAGRAPH: **PERSUADES THROUGH REASONS**

1. **Topic Sentence:**
 - Introduces the side of the issue to be supported.
 - Tells the reader reasons will be given.
2. **Detail Sentences:**
 - Each provides information about a related reason.
3. **Clincher Sentence:**
 - Sums up the reasons.
4. **Transitions:**
 - Importance Transitions.
 - Chain-Link Transitions.
5. **Point of View:**
 - Second person.
 - Third person.
6. **Tense:**
 - Past, present, or future tense.

EXAMPLES PARAGRAPH: EXPLAINS SOMETHING THROUGH EXAMPLES

- 1. Topic Sentence:**
 - Introduces the main idea.
 - Tells the reader examples will be given.

- 2. Detail Sentences:**
 - Each provides information about a related example.

- 3. Clincher Sentence:**
 - Sums up the examples.

- 4. Transitions:**
 - Chain-Link Transitions.

- 5. Point of View:**
 - Third person.

- 6. Tense:**
 - Usually present tense.
 - Sometimes past or future tense.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST **PARAGRAPH**

Definition :

Shows how people, places, things, or ideas are alike and/or different.

Types:

Compare Paragraph

Shows how they are alike.

Contrast Paragraph

Shows how they are different.

Compare and Contrast Paragraph

Shows how they are alike and different.

COMPARE PARAGRAPH: SHOWS HOW THINGS ARE ALIKE

- 1. Topic Sentence:**
 - Introduces the two subjects.
 - Tells that they will be compared.

- 2. Detail Sentences:**
 - Each tells one way they are alike.

- 3. Clincher Sentence:**
 - Sums up the similarities.

- 4. Transitions:**
 - Chain-link, importance.

- 5. Point of View:**
 - Usually third person.
 - Sometimes first or second person.

- 6. Tense:**
 - Present or past tense.

CONTRAST PARAGRAPH: SHOWS HOW THINGS ARE DIFFERENT

1. **Topic Sentence:**
 - Introduces the two subjects.
 - Tells that they will be contrasted.

2. **Detail Sentences:**
 - Each tells one way in which the subjects are different.

3. **Clincher Sentence:**
 - Sums up the differences.

4. **Transitions:**
 - Chain-link, importance.

5. **Point of View:**
 - Usually third person.
 - Sometimes first or second person.

6. **Tense:**
 - Past or present tense.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST
PARAGRAPH: USED TO SHOW HOW
THINGS OR IDEAS ARE ALIKE AND
DIFFERENT

1. **Topic Sentence:**
 - Introduces the two subjects.
 - Tells that they will be compared and contrasted.

2. **Detail Sentences:**
 - Each tells at least one way in which the subjects are alike or at least one way they are different.

3. **Clincher Sentence:**
 - Sums up similarities and differences.

4. **Transitions:**
 - Importance, chain-link.

5. **Point of view:**
 - Usually third person.
 - Sometimes first or second person.

6. **Tense:**
 - Present or past tense.

GENERALIZATION
INSTRUCTION

Orientation Phase

Activation Phase

Adaptation Phase

Maintenance Phase

AFFIRMATIONS

I write with ease when I use the Paragraph Writing Strategy.

My ideas are well organized when I make a Paragraph Diagram.

I look for ways to use the Paragraph Writing Strategy every day.

I am comfortable with writing, now that I use the Paragraph Writing Strategy.

I am creating a new image of myself as a competent writer by using the Paragraph Writing Strategy.

I am a successful writer when I use the Paragraph Writing Strategy.

I can achieve my goal when I use the Paragraph Writing Strategy.

My goal is: _____.