

# HOW TO WRITE A PARAGRAPH

## THE HAMBURGER OUTLINE



(the top bun)

**SENTENCE #1: TOPIC SENTENCE**

Purpose: What is this paragraph about?  
One idea only!

State clearly: One main point/example from the text which proves your **thesis** (argument)

(the veggies)

**SENTENCE #2: EXPLANATION SENTENCE**

Purpose: Summarize the situation in the text

State clearly: The 5 Ws (who, what, when, where, why and how)

(the meat)

**SENTENCE #3: TEXTUAL EVIDENCE (your proof!)**

Purpose: Quotation or paraphrasing (with citation) that supports your argument

State clearly: Key details from the text that prove your point

Format: Your words + "quotation" + (author, page #)

(the condiments)

**SENTENCE #4: ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE**

Purpose: Explain the meaning of the quotation/paraphrasing

State clearly: Why this part is referring to your main point/example

Include: Subject's key terms and concepts

(the bottom bun)

**SENTENCE #5: LINKING SENTENCE**

Purpose: How this main point/example proves your thesis

State clearly: Why the main point/example is directly connected to your thesis

Could include: Transition where you hint at what your next main point/example will be