

Writing Sentences and Paragraphs

Effective academic writing depends on clear sentences and well-structured paragraphs. Essays become easier to read when ideas are organised logically and linked together clearly.



Thinking About Paragraphs

A paragraph should develop one main idea.

A useful model is:

STATEMENT → EVIDENCE → EVALUATION (SEE)

This structure helps ensure that paragraphs do more than present information. They also explain why that information matters.

Statement

Begin with a topic sentence. The topic sentence should:

- Introduce the main point of the paragraph
- Relate directly to the essay question
- Connect to the overall argument

Evidence

Support the main point using appropriate evidence. Evidence might include:

- Academic sources
- Research findings
- Statistics
- Examples
- Primary sources

Evaluation

Explain the significance of the evidence.

Consider:

- What does the evidence show?
- Why is it important?
- How does it support the argument?

Evaluation helps demonstrate critical thinking rather than simple description.

Linking Paragraphs

At the end of a paragraph, help the reader move to the next idea.

This can be done by:

- Referring back to the argument
- Introducing the next issue
- Showing relationships between points

Sentence Length and Variety

Not every sentence should be the same length.

A mixture of short and longer sentences can:

- Improve readability
- Create a smoother rhythm
- Emphasise important points
- Prevent writing from feeling repetitive

The effect of a passage can change considerably depending on sentence length and structure.

Reviewing Your Writing

Choose one paragraph from a previous assignment and ask:

- Are the sentences all the same length?
- Does the paragraph develop one main idea?
- Is evidence included?
- Is the evidence explained?
- Does the paragraph connect to the next one?

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