

Papers with several paragraphs

- Paragraph is the basic unit of academic writing.
- Longer papers resemble paragraphs...
 - with a few extras

Multi-paragraph essay

Paragraph

- Topic sentence
- Supporting sentence
- Supporting sentence
- Supporting sentence
- Concluding sentence

❖ Unity

❖ Coherence

Longer essay

- (Introduction paragraph)
 - Thesis statement
- Supporting paragraph
- Supporting paragraph
- Supporting paragraph
- Concluding paragraph

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Paragraph

- A set of sentence that develop one idea
 - Topic sentence: states the idea
 - Supporting sentences: definitions, examples, logical arguments, factual evidence, etc.
 - Concluding sentence: restates the topic or rephrases the support (*optional*)

Paragraph

- **Unity: One idea**
 - All sentences support or restate the topic
- **Coherence: Stay together**
 - Order is consistent and logical
 - Transitions are indicated
 - Word use and grammar are consistent

Multi-paragraph essay

- **Introduction paragraph**
 - Starts general: Get reader's attention
 - Move toward the focus
 - Ends with the thesis statement
- Thesis statement: Main idea of all the paragraphs
 - "Topic sentence" for the whole essay

Introduction paragraph

I am a movie fanatic. When friends want to know what picture won the Oscar in 1980 or who played the police chief in Jaws, they ask me. My friends, though, have stopped asking me if I want to go out to the movies. The problems of getting to the theater, the theater itself, and the behavior of some patrons are all reasons why I often wait for a movie to show up on TV.

(John Langan, "The hazards of moviegoing")

Multi-paragraph essay

- **Supporting paragraphs**
 - Support the thesis
 - Are paragraphs
 - Each has a topic sentence
 - Each has unity, coherence
 - Usually don't have a conclusion

Multi-paragraph essay

- **Concluding paragraph**
 - Summarizes points about the thesis
 - Say thesis again in different words
 - OR*
 - Summarize topic of each supporting paragraph
- Chance for a “last comment”, loosely related

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