

Title: Expository Writing 1 - Paragraph Structure

Course: Anglais de base (English 101)

Key Language Elements: Text type – expository; paragraph structure – topic sentence; supporting details; concluding statement.

Pedagogical Intentions:

- Raise students' awareness of the similarities and differences in writing a paragraph in English compared to in French
- Promote students' awareness of genres and their features and learn how to write with a specific audience and purpose

Objectives:

- Develop students' abilities to construct a paragraph with a clear topic sentence and supporting details.
- Develop students' awareness of how paragraph elements are similar to those in French but also vary according to the genre of writing.


Learning Task: Construct a paragraph with the proper elements (for an expository essay).

Form: Pair work.

Context: In class (in a laboratory) or online for distance learning.

Activities before class:

The writing task could be based on an article or a video that the class has watched. This is to ensure that students have things and ideas to write about.

5 min.	7. Invite students who speak other languages to share if this paragraph structure is similar to that in their language. Again, help students to understand that different text types, e.g., a lab or technical report, a narrative, or a descriptive essay, might have a slightly different structure, but what is similar is the clear articulation of a topic idea supported by details, explanations, or evidence, etc.	<p>∪ Comparing to paragraph writing in another language helps students to make connections with prior knowledge and raises their awareness of possible differences. Also, it shows them to always write with a specific audience and purpose.</p> <p> Collaborative writing – The idea is to write with students on the board/screen to make the writing process visible to the class. It is particularly important to revise and refine the topic sentences with the class so that they understand writing is not a formula --- a change in word choice or sentence structure can change its meaning and/or highly improve its clarity.</p>
5 min.	8. Student – Paragraph Structure – Worksheet Task 1: Ask students to read two paragraphs and ask them to identify (using highlighters) the topic sentence, supporting details, and the closing statement. Do the first one together with them on the screen. Have them do the second one in pairs. Then discuss what makes a good topic sentence – it defines the topic but also gives the reader a sense of where it is heading (a controlling idea). An example: <i>Being a teacher requires different sets of skills.</i>	
5 min.	9. Student – Paragraph Structure – Worksheet Task 2: Writing a topic sentence based on a group of supporting ideas. Teacher can ask students to write individually then work in groups to improve the sentence. To check the answers, it is good to use collaborative writing to demonstrate how an effective topic sentence can be generated.	
5 min.	10. Student – Paragraph Structure – Worksheet Task 3: Return to the paragraphs in Task 1. Focus on supporting details and concluding statement.	
15 min.	11. Task 4: Use the ideas on the board about the advantages of learning English to develop a paragraph with a topic sentence based on the supporting ideas that have been grouped together on the board earlier. Use collaborative writing to support the writing process.	

Extension:

Real applications: Invite students to work on an email to the Department Chair of a university program they would like to attend. Work in groups to help each other to improve its clarity, appropriateness of register, and the persona they would like to construct.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

To Cite:

Centre for Integrated Plurilingual Teaching and Learning. (2022). *Teacher–paragraph structure–lesson plan*. Retrieved [Month Date, Year], from [URL].