

Paragraph Writing

Here is a simple paragraph:

In my opinion, dogs make the best pets. First, all dogs are friendly and loyal. In addition, dogs can do interesting things like sit, speak, and roll over. Finally, dogs are great with children. For these reasons, it is better to have a dog as a pet than any other animal.

A paragraph has one topic. The topic is stated in the topic sentence, which is usually the first sentence:

In my opinion, dogs make the best pets.

The supporting sentences explain or give reasons for the main idea:

First of all, dogs are friendly and loyal.

In addition, dogs can do interesting things like sit, speak, and roll over.

Finally, dogs are great with children.

Sometimes, a paragraph has a concluding sentence. This summarizes the paragraph, and often has the same main idea as the topic sentence.

For these reasons, it is better to have a dog as a pet than any other animal.

Outline

Topic: Dogs are the best pets

Reasons:

- a. friendly and loyal
- b. can do interesting things
- c. great with children

Activity 1 – Paragraph Writing

In my opinion, it is interesting to travel abroad. First of all, you can meet new people. In addition, you can eat different kinds of food. Furthermore, you can see the way other people live. For these reasons, visiting foreign countries is an interesting thing to do.

Please complete the outline below.

Outline

Topic: _____

Reasons: a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Activity 2 – Paragraph Writing

In my opinion, cats make wonderful house pets. Firstly, they are loving and friendly. In addition, they don't eat much, so they are not expensive. Unfortunately, some people are allergic to their hair. Finally, cats are fun to play with. For these reasons, a cat is a great pet to have.

Please complete the outline below.

Outline

Topic: _____

Reasons: a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Which sentence is an *irrelevant* sentence?

Outline

Topic: _____

Reasons: a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Irrelevant: _____

Outline

Topic: _____

Reasons: a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Irrelevant: _____

Choose one of the groups of sentences about San Francisco. Write the sentences as a paragraph, and include a concluding sentence.

- 1. San Francisco is usually warm and pleasant during the day.**
- 2. Some of the country's most famous restaurants and hotels are in San Francisco.**
- 3. There are many things to see and do in San Francisco.**
- 4. The city has many interesting tourist attractions.**
- 5. It is not far from San Francisco to Los Angeles.**
- 6. The weather in San Francisco is very pleasant.**
- 7. It is never too hot or cold.**
- 8. The nightlife is exciting.**
- 9. Some people like cold winters.**
- 10. The winters are mild and it rarely snows.**