

Paragraph Writing

Activity 1

In my opinion, smoking should not be allowed in restaurants. First of all, cigarette smoke may bother other customers. In addition, the smoke may affect the food. Most importantly, passive smoking is dangerous to people's health. For these reasons, smoking should be banned in restaurants.

Outline

Topic: _____

Reasons: a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

What does the author think is the most important reason?

Are there any irrelevant sentences?

Signal Words

Signal words are very important. They guide the reader from one reason to the next reason.

They make a paragraph clear and easy to understand.

1. Topic Sentence

In my opinion, ~

I think (that) ~

I believe (that) ~

In my opinion, smoking should not be allowed in restaurants.

2. Supporting Sentences

First of all, ~

In addition, ~

Furthermore, ~

For one thing, ~

Also, ~

Finally, ~

Most importantly, ~

First of all, cigarette smoke may bother other customers. In addition, the smoke may affect food. Most importantly, passive smoking is dangerous to people's health.

3. Concluding Sentence

For these reasons, ~

In conclusion, ~

To summarize, ~

For these reasons, smoking should be banned in restaurants.

Organizing information in a paragraph

- When you write a paragraph, you can put the most important reason first or last.
- Don't put the most important reason in the middle of the paragraph.
- Your reasons can be of equal importance.

Activity 2

1. Read this topic:

Japan should not have a six-day school week.

Write as many reasons as you can that support this topic:

Activity 3 – part A

Now write a paragraph. Use signal words to guide the reader.

Part B

Swap paragraphs with a partner and complete the outline for the above paragraph.

Topic: Japan should not have a six-day school week.

Reasons: a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____

What does the author think is the most important reason?

Are there any irrelevant sentences?
